9-8-2016

Sustainable global medical mission work: the CSB/SJU Global Medical Brigade

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Sustainable Global Medical Mission Work: The CSB/SJU Global Medical Brigade

Tyler Bruinsma ’17
Past President: Global Health Affairs Club
Program Director: 2016 Global Medical Brigade
Objectives

• Define “Voluntourism” and examine the pitfalls of global mission work
• Introduce Global Brigades Inc. and their holistic model of development
• Examine the underlying causes of poor health and ways to improve these causes through global mission work
• Share stories and experiences from the 3 year history of Global Medical Brigades at CSB/SJU
“Voluntourism”

The *conscious*, seamlessly integrated combination of voluntary service to a destination and the best, traditional elements of travel — arts, culture, geography, history *and recreation* — in that destination. – [www.voluntourism.org](http://www.voluntourism.org)
Cruise to Cuba: Make History

Fathom combines your love of travel with your desire to make a difference.

Dominican Republic

UNLEASH GREATNESS

New Inaugural Season Fares!
Seven Days to the Dominican Republic starting at $499

Call 1-855-932-8466 to secure your spot.
Fathom Cruises

“In the Dominican Republic, you’ll have the opportunity to work side by side with local residents in existing programs that focus on improving the lives of children, families and communities.

In Cuba, you’ll participate in an ongoing cultural exchange program that gives you the opportunity to interact with the Cuban people, one on one.

And you’ll come home seven days later knowing that, for the people whose lives you’ve just touched, the world has become a little brighter because of you.” –Fathom Website
Failed Programs

• Orphanage tourism in Southeastern Asia and Africa
• The business of running orphanages
• Recurring feelings of abandonment
• Unskilled volunteers take jobs from local laborers
• Local economies become dependent on tourists
• Poor management by charities and relief organizations
• Red Cross following the Haiti earthquake
• Culturally insensitive interventions
Voluntourism- Bottom Line

Voluntourism is centered on the desires and needs of the voluntourist NOT the people that are being served.

“I don't believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is so vertical. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other person. I have a lot to learn from other people.”

— Eduardo Galeano
Mission:
To empower volunteers and under-resourced communities to resolve global health and economic disparities and inspire all involved to collaboratively work towards an equal world.

Vision:
To improve equality of life by igniting the largest student-led social responsibility movement on the planet.
The Holistic Model and Process

1. Research and Evaluation
2. Community Partnership
3. Program Preparation
4. Program implementation through interdisciplinary brigades
5. Staff follow-up
6. Sustainable transition from communities

https://vimeo.com/136067027

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www.globalbrigades.org
Global Brigades in Action

Addressing Global Health Disparities
Overview of Brigade Types

- Medical/Dental
- Microfinance/Business, Architecture
- Water
- Public Health
- Environment
- Human Rights
Every 6 months in community centers throughout Honduras.

Groups of 25 plus students and healthcare providers.

3 physicians/mid-level providers
2 dentists

Provide care to 700-1300 patients over 3-4 days.

www.globalbrigades.org
Medical/Dental

- Triage: students take vitals and family histories
- Consultation: patients see physicians
- Dental: patients receive dental treatments
- Gynecology: pap smears and pelvic exams
- Charla: “Chat” in Spanish
  - Children’s run by students
  - Adult’s run by community health workers
- Pharmacy: receive all medications for free
Medical/Dental

- Emergent cases while on brigades
- Community Health Workers
  - Support communities between brigades
  - Trained and certified by brigades physicians
- Patient referral program
Microfinance/Business

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v0tv7FmO2s
Water

• Address underlying cause of disease: un-clean or not enough water
  • Chronic headaches
  • Diarrheal diseases
  • Obesity
• Architecture brigades plan the water projects
• Investment of community banks and individual families
• Investment, construction and education by a brigade
• Water council maintains
Public Health

- Improve health at home
- Eco Stoves
- Concrete floors
- Latrines
- Water storage
- Showers
Environmental

• Addresses nutrition and sustainability of healthy practices
• Improves the sustainability of agriculture
• Minimizes “slash and burn” techniques
• Promotes diversification
• Consultations on yield potential with farmers
• Reforestation projects and assist in planting during appropriate season

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www.globalbrigades.org
• Addressing the social aspect of health
• Hire lawyers to provide consultation on family law
• Prepare legal documentation
• Educate children about their rights through games and about the legal professions (Debate and Model UN)

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www.globalbrigades.org
Future Directions

• More brigades at CSB/SJU to develop a holistic campus
• Greater integration with study abroad office as an official program
• Faculty and staff involvement
Special Thanks

Meghan Koop ‘17: Fall 2015 President of GHA
Lindsay Sommer ‘17 and Abby Bushey ’17: 2015 VP’s of GHA
All members of the 2016 Brigade Executive Board
Lukas Pitzl ’16, Meg Schraft ’16: Founding President and VP
Dr. Jeffery Anderson: Club Advisor
SALD Office Staff and Co-Funding Board members
Fr. Doug Mullin: VP of Student Development, SJU
Dr. Mary Dana Hinton: President, CSB
Questions?
Thank you!

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