

H.O.P.E. 2010 SITES: DOMESTIC TRIPS

National Relief Disaster Relief: New Orleans & Orlando



Stonehill College has performed disaster relief work over the past several years in the Gulf Coast region, particularly in New Orleans, LA and Galveston, TX. This work was accomplished with the National Relief Network (NRN), which is an organization committed to bringing large numbers of volunteers to state and federally declared disaster areas for the purpose of helping families in their efforts to rebuild their homes, their communities, and their lives. Through working with the NRN, Stonehill students have been able to make a positive impact in disaster stricken areas that have left thousands in desperate need for help. This disaster relief work develops many communities that have been

neglected, while also developing the H.O.P.E. participants in a unique, eye opening way.

Tennessee

H.O.P.E. students who travel to Tennessee stay at the Sunset Gap Community Center in Cosby. The service work at Sunset Gap focuses on the surrounding community. The community center sends volunteers out into the community wherever there is need. The work is mostly physical labor, building and landscaping, but can change from year to year. This year the task was to repair a local family's trailer by rebuilding their roof and deck, and painting the exterior.



New York



In New York City, the H.O.P.E group works with students at two different sites: Catholic Charities in Harlem and Manhattan Comprehensive Day and Night School in Manhattan. H.O.P.E. members tutor students striving to earn their High School Diploma or G.E.D, while learning English as a second language. The students at Catholic Charities and Manhattan Comprehensive are extremely thankful for help in math, the sciences, English, history, SAT prep, computer skills, and job skills. While volunteering for the week, the H.O.P.E group stays at Stonehill's Lorillard Place in the Bronx.

California

The 2010 H.O.P.E. trip to California will be working with the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC) and the Congregation of Holy Cross' Valley Missionary Program (VMP). CVHC is a non-profit housing development corporation dedicated to helping low- and very low-income families improve their living conditions through advocacy, research, construction, and operation of housing and community development projects. The H.O.P.E. group will be primarily working on building houses for CVHC families throughout the week. The group will also connect with the VMP, whose mission focuses on working with the Latino community in the Coachella Valley.

H.O.P.E. 2010 SITES: *INTERNATIONAL TRIPS*



Dominican Republic

H.O.P.E Dominican Republic travels to La Romana, where they work at Hogar Del Nino, a center that seeks to offer necessary services to children in need, from newborns to seventeen years in age. This program provides children with daily care, educational opportunities, medical assistance and vocational training. Last year's H.O.P.E. group spent their time working on several projects including painting a playground, creating a mural for the Doctor's office, and painting the nursery room.

Honduras

In Honduras, the H.O.P.E. group stays in the small town of Guaimaca and lives in the mission house for the city's church. While there, H.O.P.E. group members help the church and surrounding communities with what is needed at the time. Last year H.O.P.E. students assisted the mission's farm with their composting project and worked for the local girls' boarding school run by nuns from the mission. Also, the group was lucky enough to hike through the Honduran mountainside, see the productions of a local coffee farm, and challenge the local youth group to a game of soccer!



Nicaragua

Stonehill will take a trip to Nicaragua for the first time this year. Students will travel through The Friends of Students for 60,000, started by Michael Cipoletti, the founder of the H.O.P.E. alternative spring break program when he was a student at Stonehill. The Nicaragua Project focuses on community development efforts in very impoverished areas of Nicaragua. All of their projects are rooted in justice and emphasize sustainability and independence. Members of The Friends of Students for 60,000 work diligently to raise funds to sponsor the projects. Every dollar raised goes directly to those in need.



Peru

H.O.P.E. Peru provides participants with the opportunity to become fully immersed in a unique culture and community through rewarding work at Fe y Alegría, a local school, as well as at Yancana Huasay, a rehabilitation center that caters primarily to children with mental and physical disabilities. Participants are given the opportunity to not only make a difference through physical labor, but to also learn and grow through interactions with children at both the school and Yancana Huasay. The experience as a whole is largely focused on gaining an understanding of the immense poverty and social justice issues in Peru. Close relationships developed with locals also provides participants with the opportunity to see past the poverty and be exposed to the generosity, compassion and love that is inherent within the community of Canto Grande.

