

Our Vision

We desire to live in a world in which we all take responsibility for the well-being of each other; where the poor can be empowered, the hungry are fed, the children educated, and the sick and lonely cared for.

We desire to live in a world in which people believe that the health of the land is directly related to the health of the people.

Mission Statement

Journey4YOUth is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that aims to alleviate poverty through sustainability and empowerment.

Our goal is to create a worldwide movement of people who dedicate themselves to helping their neighbor.

Objectives

We aim to make sustainable investments into families in need so they can have what they need to better provide for themselves and improve the local economy of their community.

We aim to invest into families in need so they can become empowered and equipped to invest into the lives of other families in their community.

We aim to invest into quality education for children, equipping them with what they need to one day become highly educated leaders.

The Foundation of our Work

The foundation of our work derives from our faith and understanding of God through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Bible makes it clear that we are to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. -James 1:27

Serve each other with love. The whole law is made complete in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself'. -Galatians 5:13-14

Our work is a response to these teachings.

*Although the foundation of our work comes from a Christian world view Journey4YOUth does not discriminate against any religion, ethnicity or sexuality.

Journey4YOUths Guiding Principles & Values

7 Generations Perspective

Sustainable and Long Term Solutions

Journey4YOUth wants to move from projects that meet immediate needs (such as hunger) to more sustainable and long term solutions. We aim to see families empowered and equipped to meet their own basic needs as well as the needs of others in their own community.

As opposed to exhausting our limited resources on small temporary needs, -we would rather invest in one long-term sustainable family project. This one time investment will help a family either save money or generate resources, as well as provide for themselves for many years to come.

We do not want to see families dependent on aid for their livelihood. We want to see families truly thrive and not only meet the basic needs of their family but also their neighbors and the community at large.

Every thought, word and action we have today carries consequences for tomorrow. Thus we must consider:

What kind of world are we creating for our grandchildren and their children?

Are we ready to commit a lifetime to this work?

This perspective of 7 generations must also consider the earth. The earth is our greatest resource; everything we have comes from the land. When we fail to protect and care for the planet today we are stealing from future generations. If we do not care for the earth the earth will not be able to care for us.

For example, if we clear-cut the forest and fail to replant the trees we change the climate of the land. The natural springs dry up, the rains fail; bringing drought and famine along with sickness and disease when we have to depend on polluted water sources to drink and wash.

We want to create a new model; one that respects and protects the earth and equips and empowers each person committed to bring lasting change to the community at large.

Each One Teach One: A Movement Begins

Journey4YOUth is committed to investing in a family project only if that family can commit themselves to investing in the project of another family.

To whom much is given much is required.

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. Luke 12:48

This allows families to start the cycle of positive change in their community. We can only solve the world's problems if everyone commits to sharing their resources and caring for their neighbor.

Every individual has unique gifts and abilities to contribute for the greater good of society. Including those who have endured great challenges and suffering.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you are faced with trials and tribulations of many kinds, because the testing of your faith develops perseverance and perseverance must make it's mark so you may be complete and mature, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

Those who have endured trials and tribulations can listen and minister to others who are going through similar situations.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. -2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Each One Teach One: The Power of the Movement

True power comes from many people working together as a group. Only when many people come together can their voices be heard. Throughout history, real change has only happened when people are united.

Journey4YOUth can invest in individual families but when they work together as a group they now have the potential to reach their entire community and beyond.

When families pledge to commit their time, resources, gifts and knowledge to another family the impact has then doubled. If this model is continued (when a family who receives an investment returns their investment to another family in their community) the movement has then tripled. And the movement continues to grow. If Journey4YOUth initially invests in 37 committed families, after 10 years this movement will have helped and empowered 185 families in the community. In 20 years, 370 families, in 40 years 740 families, in 100 years 1850 families. (This is assuming each family will make a 2 year commitment).

Each One Teach One: Indirect Impact

The direct impact of this movement is the number of families who have been helped and empowered. In addition, the community will see other indirect impacts of this movement as well:

1. The local economy will grow.
2. A diversity of nutritious food will become locally available, free from harsh chemicals that poison the land and contribute to sickness.
3. The community will be strengthened as everyone works together to improve the livelihood of all.

The results are far beyond what we could ever do as an individual or even a small group of people.

This is the power of a movement that can serve as a model for other communities all over the world and it begins with us.

Each One Teach One: Biblical Principles

The more we give the more we receive.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Acts 20:35

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
Luke 6:38

He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done. –
Proverbs 19:17

Full Participation

This movement can only work if everyone involved will fully participate and commit themselves to the cause.

All families involved are expected to work together to bring about the transformation in their current and future community.

We must recognize our shared humanity; *“what affects you also affects me.”*

We must acknowledge that it is better to be empowered with the ability to sustain, not only our generation, but future generations as well, than to simply receive aid.

In order to become empowered, active leaders and contributors in this community family members must:

Attend group meetings, trainings and workshops.

Actively engage your heart and mind to this work.

Put your neighbor above yourself.

Respect and honor all group members equally.

Give your time, resources, expertise and enthusiasm to your own project, the projects of the group and the project you will commit to.

Continue to serve and give yourself to others even after your project and committed project are complete.

Be transparent and accountable in recording the resources given to you by others, whether that be money, time, or other resources.

Always remain grateful.

Completed projects are not the end goal; the dedication, sacrifice and selflessness shown by all group members are just as valuable.

Gender Equality

Gender equity is essential to the success of these projects and true empowerment of the community at large. Men and women must work side by side in equally respected roles. In the group setting men and women are encouraged to have a voice and share openly with everyone.

If women are marginalized and discriminated against; half of the population is now limited or suppressed in reaching their full potential. This decreases the potential and achievements of all.

The group is encouraged to recognize and discuss gender injustice that they witness or experience within their home and the community. The group must commit to taking a strategic approach to tackling the issues of power and control between genders.

A community cannot truly become empowered unless men, women, girls and boys are all equally involved in becoming agents of change and transformation.

Discrimination against others based on sex will not be tolerated and violators will be subject to removal from the group regardless of their status or progress.

Care of Widows and Orphans

Although Journey4YOUth works with people of every age and background we believe in giving special care and priority to older widows and total orphans.

Through our work with communities we urge the community to really take it upon themselves to look after those who are older widows and total orphans.

In the group setting these individuals may not be held to the same criteria as everyone else. We ask that the group would consider each older widow and total orphan's particular circumstances and how they can best serve these individuals.

Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. -1 Timothy 5:3

Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. -Isaiah 1:17

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. -James 1:27