

RETHINK
Partner Visits

Not Your Average Mission Trip



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Rethink Partner Visits

This presentation was created to:

1. Increase collaboration between the partner and CarePoint related to trip planning.
2. Stir creative and innovative thinking.
3. Engage more people in your community to travel.
4. Provide opportunities to engage other cultures specifically in ways God designed the traveler.
5. Equip teams pre and post trip.

Rethink Partner Visits (Cont.)

- See beyond VBS
- Widen circle of people from your community who want to travel
- Build relationship with the entire community, not just children
- Share skills, hobbies, and passions unique to each traveler
- Avoid travel stress and worry by creating a strategy years in advance
- Target groups of people in your community to share skills
- Be innovative
- Recruit and empower more leaders in your community
- Find creative discipleship opportunities



Preparing the Team

Resources for Group Study

- When Helping Hurts
- Toxic Charity
- Poverty Cure (6-part DVD series)
- Learn about the country you are visiting

Team Survey

- Skills, hobbies, passions individuals would want to share
- Group activities team wants to do together

Working with HopeChest

- Managed missions review: cultural information, packing list, vaccines, visa, policies, & deadlines
- Build itinerary in Slack
- 1 pre-trip call to review the itinerary
- Country orientation once you arrive on your partner visit



Preparing the Team (Cont.)

Serve Together Locally

- Do some of the things locally you want to do on your partner visit

Strategy to Include Others in Your Trip

- Raise financial support through family and friends
- Send out prayer requests
- Create plan to update people during and post trip
- Collect letters and video greetings from sponsors

Reminders

- Don't bring handouts
- Pack light: you can do laundry there and it helps employ people
- Buy things in the country versus bringing things to the country
- Be flexible



Team Leader

- ✓ **Experienced**
- ✓ **Culturally sensitive**
- ✓ **Willing to Have the Hard Conversations**
- ✓ **Effective Communicator and Delegator**



Always Remember

- **Go as a Learner**
- **Build Relationships**
- **Don't go to 'rescue' or 'solve'**



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The **5** plan

Building
the Itinerary
Together



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1. What is the CarePoint Asking For?

Program Support

- Help run programs already established
- Serve and come alongside staff at the CarePoint
- Large and small group interactions

Specific Teachings and Workshops Needed in the Community

- Young mothers
- Teen identity
- Marriage and family conferences
- Trauma awareness
- Bible lessons to reinforce CarePoint discipleship
- Camps

Vocational or Professional Skill Sets

- Entrepreneurs, sales, marketing, IT (computer repair)
- Educators and tutors
- Social workers/Counselors
- Construction
- Medical
- Mentor young emerging leaders



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2. Who is on Your Trip?

Ask each traveler what passions, skill sets and/or hobbies they want to share

- Teachers work with teachers
- Yoga instructors lead yoga classes
- Medical clinics: physical therapists, eye doctors, dentists, etc...
- Social workers and counselors work with social workers and counselors
- Builders work with people interested in carpentry to build something creative for the CarePoint/homes
- Sports camps
- Conferences: marriage and family, women's, men's, teens, business and leadership
- Sports, art, music, drama camps
- Work with individuals, small groups, or large groups
- Business leaders working with VSLA groups and leadership minded entrepreneurs
- Influencers - Social media live for education, fundraising, or sponsorship



2. Who is on Your Trip? (Cont.)

- Schedule trips years in advance
- Target groups of people to invite
- Expand who can connect
- Be creative
 - **Year 1 – Family trip**
 - *Mother/son – mother/daughter – father/son – father/daughter – spouses*
 - **Year 2 – Medical trip**
 - *Bring doctors, nurses, social workers, physical therapist, nutritionists*
 - **Year 3 – Youth and Sports Camps**
 - *Bring coaches and mentors*
 - **Year 4 – Leadership and Entrepreneurship**
 - *Business leaders, sales and marketing experts, and entrepreneurs*
 - **Year 5 – Drama, dance, and art camp**
 - **Year 6 – Calling All Teachers**
 - **Year 7 – Time to build something together** (*construction workers and tradespeople*)
 - **Year 8 – Social Influencers Unite**



3. Community-Wide Event

- Bring the community together
- Foster relationships with people inside and outside of the CarePoint program
- Be creative as you work with the CarePoint
- Get information about children who still need a HopeChest Friend

Examples:

- Show a movie, put on a talent show, color run, comedy show, magic show, or concert
- Take a field trip (swimming, fishing, hiking, zoo, amusement park, sporting event, restaurant)
- Community meal
- Conference
- Revival service (go door-to-door a couple hours each day before the event)
- Family photos (print photo and create frame for their home)
- Make a movie with your phone and show it at the end of the week

Many of these types of event have high cost incurred by the traveling team



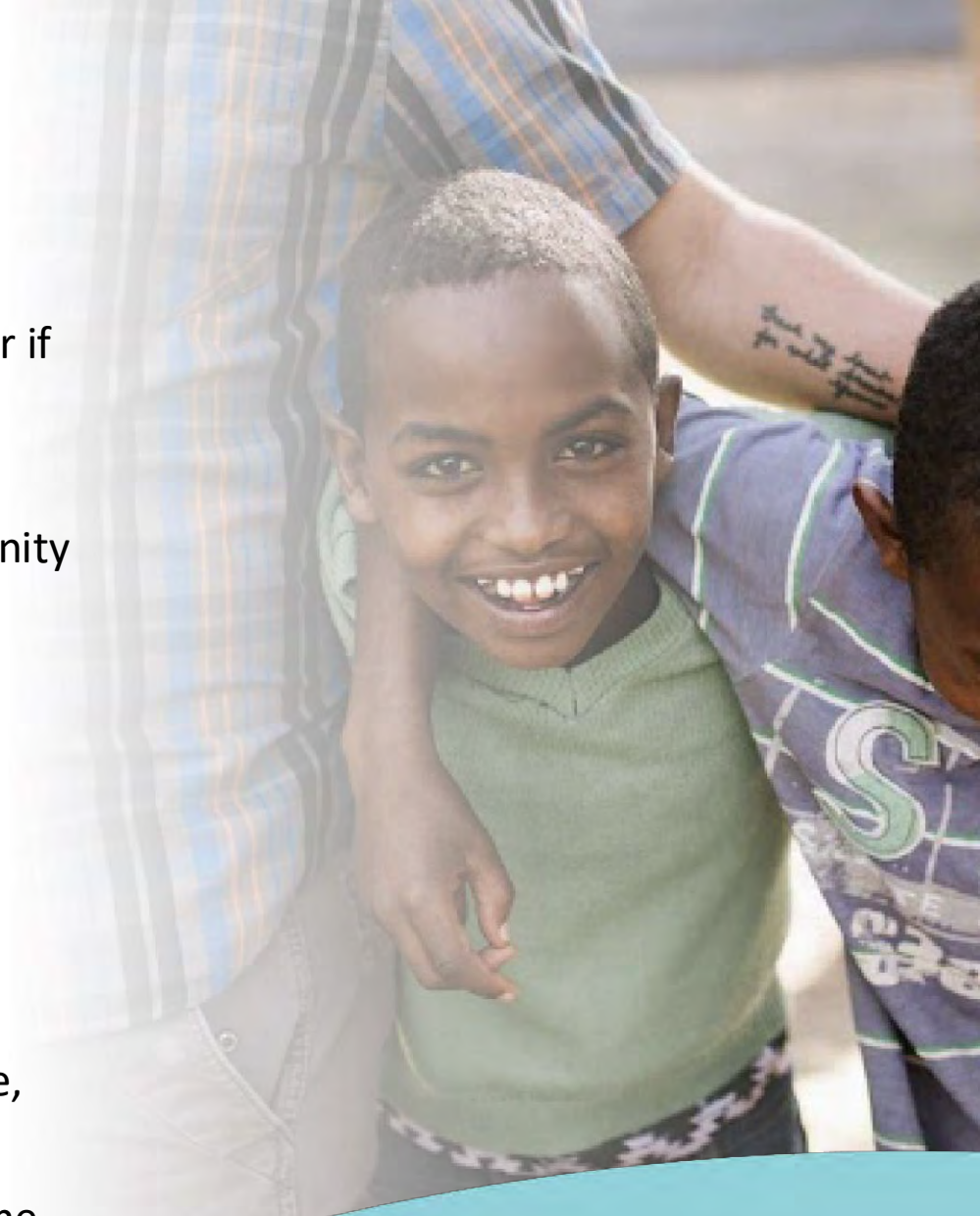
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4. CarePoint Hospitality

- CarePoint leaders are responsible for your time in-country. Very similar if they were to come to your city
- Learn about day-to-day culture at the CarePoint
- Build relationships through their perspective and love of their community

Examples

- Learn local cooking recipes
- Walk to get clean water
- Visit schools, medical clinics, and markets
- Help plant or harvest in family gardens
- CarePoint and community put on show, concert, drama
- Teach and show you all about local customs (music, art, family life, social centers)
- Day in the Life – spend a day with a child/family experiencing some of the customary rhythms of life



5. Explore the Culture

- Feel the freedom to explore!
- Fall more in love with the country by visiting what makes it so stunning
- Draw closer to your teammates in unforgettable experiences
- See God at work through play and beauty
- Support local economies
- Be creative; the list of opportunities is endless:
 - *Go golfing in Jinga, Safari, or white water raft the Nile in Uganda.*
 - *Climb an active volcano, visit lake Atitlan, or go deep sea fishing in Guatemala.*
 - *See hippos or experience a cultural celebration in Ethiopia.*



DO:

- Build friendships
- Show appreciation to staff
- Learn about the culture before you go
- Read HopeChest's travel and child protection policies
- Be curious, go as a learner not an expert
- Prepare to offer your unique skill/knowledge/passion
- Be humble, polite, positive, and flexible
- Show dignity in picture taking and story telling...ask permission to take photos
- Invite others to engage when you return

DON'T:

- Bring items you can purchase in-country
- Bring handouts
- Leave cash in country for any purpose
- Make promises to children, families, or CarePoint staff
- Give your email or social media contact information



Post Trip Debrief

- End of trip meeting with the country staff before you fly back to the US
- Meet with HopeChest travel manager to provide feedback
- Have follow-up meeting with your team:
 - How to share your experience: 3 min – 10 min – 20 min
 - Engage and invite people who prayed and supported
 - Ambassador program and project fundraising
 - Find 3-4 people in your network who might want to become HopeChest Friends
 - What are the most important 2-3 things you learned on the partner visit
 - What is 1 thing you want to do because of this experience
 - What relationships were built through the partner visit



Post Trip Impact

Fundraising and ambassador programs

- Engage the passion of people who just traveled
- Personal and customized fundraising pages
- Raise funds for programs and project in the Community Development Plan
- Fundraise as a team with a team page
- Outreach: If your community focuses on a single fundraising project, encourage travelers to point their Ambassador page to the project fundraiser while reaching out to people in their network outside your immediate constituency. (Expand your organizations reach and impact!)
- Build a strategy to create social media posts, quotes, videos, memes, blogs, podcasts to invite more sponsorships and project development



Privacy & Safety Guidelines

Sensitive Conversations:

- Exercise caution when discussing sensitive topics, such as personal challenges or family situations.
- Always respect the emotional well-being of the children and community members.

Supervision and Accountability:

- Ensure that visits are supervised, and there is accountability for everyone involved.
- Follow the guidance of local staff and community leaders to maintain a safe environment.

Cultural Sensitivity:

- Be aware of and respect the cultural norms and traditions of the community.



Privacy & Safety Guidelines (Cont.)

Respectful Interactions:

- Interact respectfully with community members, acknowledging their autonomy and agency.
- Avoid paternalistic attitudes and be open to learning from the community.

Never be One-on-One:

- Never be alone with a child or community member of the opposite gender.
- Always ensure there is at least one other person present during interactions.

Follow-Up Communication:

- After the visit, be mindful of the information you share publicly.
- Share stories and experiences in a way that respects the dignity of the community and its members.

Privacy & Safety Guidelines (Cont.)

Don't Share Personal Information:

- This includes your address, email, phone number, social media, and financial information.
- To ensure the best experience for both you and the children in our programs, we strongly recommend refraining from communication through social media platforms.

Resist Making Promises:

- Empty promises, or making promises that you cannot keep, hurts the trust in your relationship with your sponsor child.
- This includes saying that you will visit “sometime” or suggesting that you will adopt them or bring them to the U.S.



The Power of Storytelling

Why is storytelling after a trip important?

- Stories connect people.
- Stories evoke emotions.
- Stories drive action.

Tips & Tricks

1. Engage Actively:

- Interact with children, ask questions, and listen attentively.
- Be present and empathetic.

2. Connect Authentically:

- Build genuine relationships with the children.
- Share your own stories and experiences.

3. Capture Names and Notes:

- Jot down children's names, ages, and memorable moments.
- Keep a journal for personal reflections and observations.



Respect & Dignity

Respecting children's dignity is paramount.

Make sure to:

- Always seek permission before taking photos or recording videos.
- Avoid intrusive, disrespectful, or exploitative imagery.
- Prioritize the well-being and privacy of the children.



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How to Capture Compelling *Video and Photo*

Natural Lighting

- Use natural light to create beautiful, authentic images.

Candid Moments

- Capture candid interactions, not just posed shots.

Express Emotions

- Showcase the children's expressions, joy, laughter, etc.



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Storytelling Recap

1. Engage

- Connect and build relationships.

2. Document

- Capture names and notes for personal reference.

3. Respect

- Obtain permission and prioritize dignity.

4. Visuals

- Use natural light, candid moments, and emotions.

