



VISIONS
global empowerment

JANUARY 2016



22,167
lives
impacted



3,110
leadership
students &
teachers
trained



136
scholarships
awarded



1,181
students
attended
after-school
programs



58
leadership
& teacher
trainings
conducted



160
international
volunteers
traveled
abroad



\$1M+
invested in
education
programs

Announcing our 2016 Summer Service Trip Opportunities - *INDIA & ETHIOPIA*

January '16 Edition

E-Newsletter #29

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**Get
Connected!**



2016 Annual Summer Service Trip Opportunities

INDIA

July 11 - 22, 2016

(11 nights/12 days)

\$1700/person * Chennai, Tiruvannamalai, Thirukovilur, Trichy, and Dindigul, Tamil Nadu



Experience the richness of South Indian culture & tradition, visit ongoing education projects, and join us in conducting youth leadership trainings for under-served Dalit children.



Come get inspired by the pioneering work being done with our local allies in mobilizing, educating, and empowering the Deaf community in Ethiopia. Help lead training sessions for Deaf youth, visit ongoing projects, and enjoy a wide range of cultural activities and adventures.

ETHIOPIA

August 15 - 26, 2016

(11 nights/12 days)

\$1800/person * Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, & Lalibela



For more info & to apply to join us abroad this summer:
www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org/international-opportunities

*Trip program fees are exclusive of roundtrip airfare, visa, and any personal shopping

Volunteer abroad with Visions this summer and experience the joy of service while exploring a new and fascinating culture! This year (our 14th year running!) we are offering 2 trip opportunities - one trip to India & one trip to Ethiopia. Please email us at visionseducation@gmail.com if you are interested.

For more information & to apply to join us on either of these trips, please visit our website by clicking [HERE](#).

New India Mobile E-Learning Program off to an Exciting Start

Over the past few months, Visions launched one of our largest undertakings to-date: a new Mobile E-Learning Program for the benefit

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GUIDESTAR

<http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/26-3386678/visions-global-empowerment.aspx>

Join Our Mailing List!

Upcoming Events

DAVIS

"Dheem Tana 2016"
Saturday, March 26th
Richard Brunelle
Performing Arts Theater

*Make sure to visit our [Visions Facebook page](#) for more details about the above events.

of an estimated 1,400+ schoolchildren across 9 schools in India. This innovative new initiative is designed to promote learning advancement in **Mathematics, English-language, and technology literacy for Grades 1-5 youth from disadvantaged backgrounds**. The underlying intent is to reduce the learning gap, develop critical skills, and promote academic achievement in core subject areas.

This new tablet-based, self-paced learning program has now been introduced at schools in 3 Indian states, including Tamil Nadu (6 schools), Maharashtra (2 schools), and Uttarakhand (1 school).



Based off initial assessment data, **nearly all children participating in this program live at or below the poverty line**, including a majority (83%) of whom live in "extreme poverty" based off international poverty definition standards.

An initial 4-day training for school teachers and administrators was held in December 2015 in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. On the final day of the training, each school received all the program equipment. So far, the children are loving their newfound access to the tech and learning software!

2nd Annual Nazareth College Service Learning Trip to Ethiopia

For the second year running, Visions conducted a service learning trip in Ethiopia with Nazareth College (Rochester, NY) from December 30,

Short Film: Visions India Leadership Program



Visions & ALC School Project - India Youth Leadership Program

Utilizing Visions' own unique curriculum, the Visions Leadership Program provides training for youth & adults in leadership & life skills, community service, rights education, and personal & professional development. More than 3,000 individuals have been directly trained through this program across Sri Lanka, India, Kenya, and Ethiopia since 2003.

Watch the film
HERE

OUR CURRENT NEEDS

**7 India Youth
Scholarships:**

2015 - January 9, 2016. This year, **15 total program participants** joined us abroad, including 4 return volunteers. Led by Dr. Paula Brown, Professor of Speech-Language Pathology in the Communication & Speech Disorders Department, we had 5 undergraduate and 5 post-graduate students participate.

This highly motivated and committed group was able to accomplish much in a short time, including conducting special programs in Bahir Dar for Deaf children at 3 public schools with Deaf classrooms; students from the Special Needs Education Department at Bahir Dar University; Deaf preschool children and their parents; and a leadership training for Deaf young adults.



Return volunteer and audiologist at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (Rochester, NY), Dr. Catherine Clark, also continued her ongoing efforts to establish a functioning hearing testing and counselling room at our Visions Deafness Center in Bahir Dar. In total, Dr. Clark has now provided **hearing tests and counseling to 111 individuals** over the course of 3 trips to Ethiopia in the past year! She continues to work diligently on future plans aimed at further developing services and outreach offered through the Center.

In just the past few years, Visions has now taken 50 international volunteers to give their time and services in Ethiopia! We encourage you to consider joining us on a future Visions service trip to experience our exciting work with the Deaf community there for yourself!

\$400/each

**Tablets for India
Leadership
Program:
\$100/each**

**Sri Lanka
Leadership
Academy:
\$30/youth
per month**

**To make a contribution
of any amount, please
visit
[our website.](#)*

**The Visions
DREAM Youth
Leadership
Magazine**

Following the continued success and growth of our Visions Leadership Programs in India and Sri Lanka, we are aiming to share the ideas and educational tools from these initiatives with a much wider audience through the publication of a quarterly "DREAM" Youth Leadership

SHOP FOR A CAUSE:

Peace Bracelet & Honey Wine Campaigns

This month, Visions has 2 very special campaigns going on for which you can [shop for a cause!](#)



#1: Peace Bracelets by Sergio Lub Jewelry

Consider giving one of these beautiful "Peace" bracelets designed by Sergio Lub Jewelry. Available in copper, gold, and silver in 3 sizes (small, medium, and large), these beautiful bracelets are engraved with the word "Peace" in 9 different languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Spanish, and Russian.

To purchase, simply use the following link, and we'll ship you your order. Bracelets are \$30/each with all sales proceeds benefiting Visions' education programs! Thanks for your support! Please click [HERE](#) to start shopping!

#2: Honey Wine by Queen Sheba Winery

Magazine in India. The first 2 publications were already released in late 2015, with 4 more publications scheduled for 2016.

Through this new publication, we plan to directly reach our past and current Leadership Program participants, the 500+ rural youth who joined the Visions Leadership and English Program last year, and the more than 1,000 young students in Tamil Nadu now being directly served through the Visions Mobile E-Learning Program launched just this past month.

The idea is to share stories, insights about leadership development, critical educational resources, opportunities for participation through quizzes or competitions, success stories, historical examples of strong leadership, and more, as well as to create a sense of community and support for youth across Tamil Nadu and India at-large.

All current and future DREAM Magazines will be posted on our Visions website [HERE](#)

During the month of January, Queen Sheba Winery (from Woodland, CA) is donating 10% of their process to support Visions' work in Ethiopia. This campaign actually ends on January 31st, so hurry to make sure you don't miss out! And please use the promo code "VISIONS10". Please click [HERE](#) to start shopping!

PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION:

*Invest in deserving and marginalized youth.
Invest in the leaders of tomorrow. Invest in Visions.*

DONATE HERE

We can only do this important work with your support. Donations are accepted online through our [website](#) OR can be mailed to us. Please make checks out to "Visions". All donations are tax-deductible [*tax ID#26-3386678*].

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