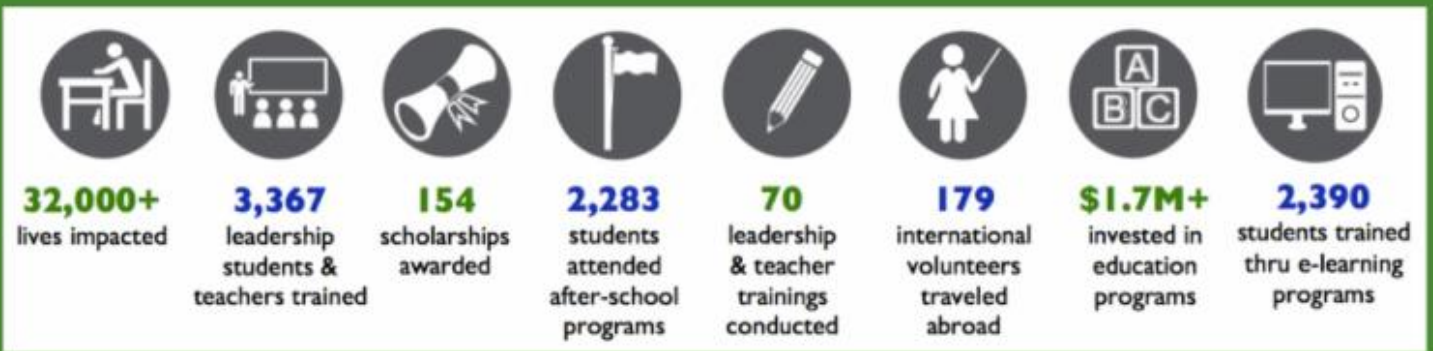




MARCH 2017



Visions Expands to a 4th Country...



Last month, after much planning and preparation, we officially branched out to our 4th country -- Nicaragua! -- with an e-Learning Program designed to promote the development of reading & tech

March '17 Edition
E-Newsletter #32

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Get Connected!

literacy skills and improved proficiency in English and mathematics amongst rural schoolchildren in the Jinotega Department.

And our biggest project to-date (by far!) is also now underway -- the development of the Vera Corazón School -- a residential school for disadvantaged girls in Matagalpa. Tentatively set to open in February 2019, the school aims to provide an ideal learning environment, in which students will not only benefit from instruction in standard subjects, but supplementary education in English, IT/computers, leadership, & entrepreneurship, and participation in a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.

With a population of 6.2 million people, Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central America and the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. It ranks 125th on the Human Development Index (of 188 countries surveyed). In a country where poverty is so rampant, many people struggle to attain financial security and a good standard of living. According to 2009 statistics, while 42.5% of Nicaraguans live at or below the poverty line, a staggering 63.3% of the rural population lives in poverty.

Over the next several months, we look forward to sharing many more updates with you all on this invigorating new chapter in Visions' development, and we invite you to be a part of the journey!

Volunteer in Nicaragua & Ethiopia This Summer

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GUIDESTAR

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

Join Our Mailing List!

OUR CURRENT NEEDS

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

Ethiopia Model Deafness Center: \$250/teacher
per month

India Leadership Program: only \$20/ student



NICARAGUA

VISIONS 1ST SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP TO NICARAGUA!

JULY 10TH – 18TH, 2017

MATACALPA, GRANADA, & OMETEPE ISLAND, NICARAGUA

PROGRAM FEE: \$1,200/PERSON*

**Trip program fee is exclusive of airfare, tourist visa on arrival (\$10), and any alcoholic drinks or personal shopping*



For more details and to apply to join us this abroad summer, please visit:

www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org/programs/volunteer-program

per year!

PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TODAY BY CLICKING [HERE](#)

New Short Film on Experience of Deaf Women & Girls in Ethiopia

We have so far released first 3 of 5 short educational films highlighting the experiences of Deaf women & girls in Ethiopia thanks to a very generous grant from Dining for Women. We encourage you to watch these films. And if you're inspired please help support our work in Ethiopia by making a donation and/or joining us abroad on our summer service-learning trip to Ethiopia this August 2017.

Livelihoods



Health



ETHIOPIA

VISIONS ANNUAL ETHIOPIA SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP "DEAF EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT"

AUGUST 7TH – 18TH, 2017

BAHIR DAR, ADDIS ABABA, & LALIBELA

PROGRAM FEE: \$1,800/PERSON*

**Trip program fee is exclusive of airfare, tourist visa on arrival (\$50), and any alcoholic drinks or personal shopping*



For more details and to apply to join us this abroad summer, please visit:

www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org/programs/volunteer-program

This year, we are running our annual summer service-learning trips to Nicaragua (for the first time!) to conduct a youth leadership training and work with e-Learning Program students, and to Ethiopia to work with the local Deaf community and allies. To access all trip flyers, detailed daily trip itineraries, and volunteer application, please use the following links:

- [NICARAGUA TRIP 2017 FLYER](#)
- [NICARAGUA TRIP 2017 ITINERARY](#)
- [ETHIOPIA TRIP 2017 FLYER](#)
- [ETHIOPIA TRIP 2017 ITINERARY](#)
- [VISIONS 2017 VOLUNTEER APPLICATION &](#)



Community Participation



UPCOMING EVENTS

Davis, CA:
Davis Dheem Tan
April 8th @ UC Davis
5-8pm

Online Handmade Quilt Auction:
April 23rd - May 14th
Online
([Visions website](#))

Charlotte, NC
"Laughing Matters"
Comedy Show
June 25th @ Charlotte
Comedy Zone
3-5pm

Nicaragua:

Visions Short Documentary Film "Voices of Empowerment"



"Voices of Empowerment" is a short documentary film that seeks to bring forth the compelling stories and voices of the youth Visions serves in Sri Lanka, India, and Ethiopia. Highlighting the daily hardships and obstacles faced by Visions-supported youth, this documentary features one student from each country. In Sri Lanka, we learn about persistence through Sivatharsini, a young woman who endured years of civil war and the loss of her sister in the 2004 tsunami. In India, we meet Gokul, a young Dalit teenager with big dreams. And in Ethiopia, we uncover the determination of Mahelet, as she struggles to navigate life as a Deaf young woman.

This film was screened last year at a series of events across the U.S., and is now available on our [Visions YouTube channel](#)! Thank you to all who made this film possible, especially our film directors Mimi Giboin & Nik Lub and Executive Producer Anthan Sunder! We hope you enjoy it!

Sri Lanka Programs Update

[Industrial Training Program - Jaffna](#)

*Summer Service-
Learning Trip 2011
July 10th - 18th
([details here](#))*

Ethiopia:
*Summer Service-
Learning Trip 2011
August 7th - 18th
([details here](#))*



Tharma Thavaratnam
Internship



Thanusiya Nesarajan
Internship

Working in partnership with Vetri Holdings, Visions is supporting 2 interns to participate in a 6-month Industrial Training Program in Jaffna, Sri Lanka which kicked off this month (March 2017). This program is designed to give aspiring tech professionals hands-on training in technologies & Software Engineering processes (for the first 3 months) and to provide an opportunity to work directly with local engineering teams on ongoing projects (for the next 3 months). The first 2 interns are Tharma Thavaratnam & Thanusiya Nesarajan - both graduates of the Advanced Technology Institute in Jaffna. If you would like to sponsor an Intern, please email us at visionseducation@gmail.com for details!

IRDG & Moolai Hospital Websites Development

Over the past several months, our friends at Vetri Holdings have also successfully launched new websites for both the [Institute of Regional Development and Governance](#) (based in Kilinochchi) and [Moolai Hospital](#) (based in Moolai, Jaffna) with the support of Visions. These websites will help IRDG & Moolai Hospital to better connect with stakeholders, share important information, and shore up support for their ongoing efforts.

As an organization, IRDG seeks to enable participation, partnership, and collaboration of various stakeholders to address the multi-dimensional challenges faced by the people of the North-East in the current environment. Moolai Co-operative Hospital, founded in 1953, has been proudly serving the people in various communities of the northern Jaffna peninsula, and served a crucial role in providing health & medical care during the many intense years of conflict in the region. If you are unfamiliar with the work of these two entities, we encourage you to visit their websites and learn more.

PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION:

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

DONATE HERE

Our work is only possible with the support of people like you!

You can donate online or send a check made out to "Visions" to the address below.
All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law [tax ID#26-3386678].

1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA, 90025
visionseducation@gmail.com

www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org

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