Friendship Mission Trip to El Salvador

Outcomes Report

Each Spring Break the Office of Religious Life and University Christian Ministry (UCM) co-sponsor a mission trip to build bridges of friendship and understanding between students and citizens of other partner and countries.

This March, seven students travelled to the Colonia 22 de Abril near San Salvador, El Salvador.

WHAT did we want our students to learn?

Students who participate in the Spring Break Friendship Mission Trip will (or will be able to):

- Report increased knowledge of the historical, political, social, economic, and religious aspects of 22 de Abril, San Salvador and El Salvador.
- Identify three factors of increased globalization impacting the country.
- Articulate how their core values have been challenged and/or transformed through this immersion experience.
- Report any increased willingness to make changes in their daily life as a result of participating in this trip.
- Reflect on what they learned about themselves and their personal response when immersed in an unfamiliar environment.

HOW did we measure learning?

- A values inventory given before the trip.
- A guided journaling experience throughout the trip.
- A focus group 6-8 weeks after the trip.

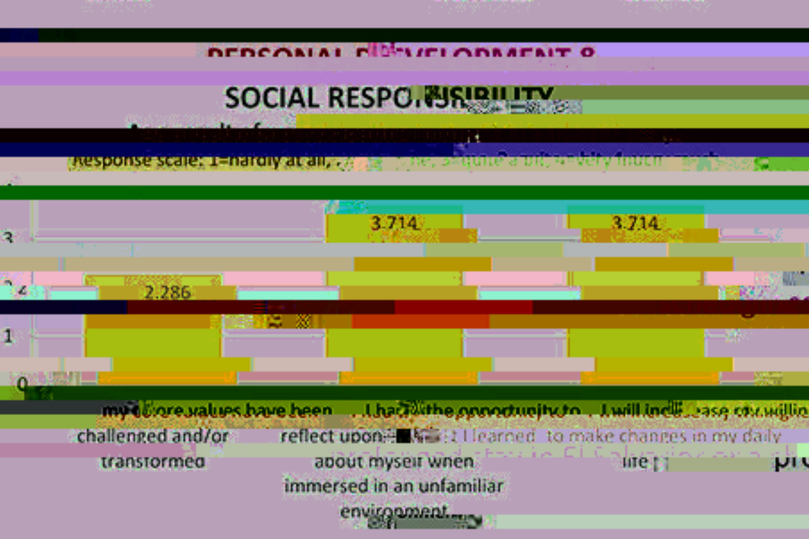
WHAT did they learn?

INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE

As a result of participating in the El Salvador trip I had the opportunity to increase my knowledge of...

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As a result of participating in this trip I...



Increase of Knowledge

Looking back, almost every day here we have partaken in some sort of [illegible] modern El Salvador.

Don't think I've ever actually participated in so much history in a lifetime "immersion" as we've gone through. Even our presentation at UCM could not inform about the true historical and political [illegible].

Being in El Salvador now [illegible] This forces me to consider my own ignorance [illegible] about similar [illegible]

This trip reinforced my values, [illegible] We also encouraged [illegible] to push them further in my own life.

"Can we truly call ourselves Christians and claim to love and care [illegible] if we ignore the problems of El [illegible] the community [illegible] Chicago? The US? [illegible]

WHAT are our next steps?

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that students fully process this experience in the many years after the trip. Perhaps scheduling a long-term assessment or forming an alumni group could help us collect and understand this data.
- Students identified that they may have an opportunity to prolonged return to El Salvador or a chance to [illegible] in the following [illegible].
- Discovering new ways to engage student's personal response to the trip.