



GLOBAL BRIGADES INFORMATION SESSION

April 15, 2015





Global Brigades is an international non-profit that *empowers* communities to meet their **health and economic** goals through university volunteers and local teams

GLOBAL BRIGADES MISSION

To empower volunteers to facilitate sustainable solutions in under resourced communities

GLOBAL BRIGADES VISION

To improve equality of life, by igniting the largest student-led social responsibility movement on the planet.



- Established in 2004
- Specific approach to volunteering: The Holistic Model
- Partner Countries: Honduras, Panama, Ghana, Nicaragua
- Programs: Architecture, Water, Engineering, Medical, Dental, Environmental, Human Rights, Microfinance, Public Health
- [2013 Achievements](#) (2014 in the making)





- Established—Fall 2012
- First Brigade: Medical/Public Health hybrid, March 2014, Eastern Panama
- 2015: Medical and Dental brigades to West Panama, Human Rights brigade to East Panama
- 2015-2016 Programs: Medical, Dental, Public Health, Environmental, Human Rights/Microfinance hybrid





PROGRAM INTROS

[architecture](#) | [business](#) | [dental](#) | [engineering](#) | [environmental](#) | [humanrights](#) | [medical](#) | [microfinance](#) | [publichealth](#) | [water](#)

globalbrigades.org





HUMAN RIGHTS BRIGADES

- The mission of Human Rights Brigades is to empower rural communities in Panama to overcome the obstacles that often impede the fundamental human right of access to justice through legal counsel and educational workshops
- Volunteers shadow and assist lawyers as they take on cases with individual families and provide legal consulting to community members
- Human Rights Brigades also work to educate school-aged children about their fundamental human rights
- The Brigade project has 4 main components: legal clinics, family law cases, education workshops, and civic engagement & empowerment





WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC ISSUES?

- **Communities lack access to any financial institutions**
- **Lack of long-term financial mindset**
- **Absence of financial literacy**
- **Trapped in a cycle of debt**
 - **Intermediaries are only option for selling crops (coyotes)**
 - **Minimal profit only permits minimal production**





MICROFINANCE:

- Provides access to financial support within the community
 - Allows healthier, more productive lives
 - Leads to increase in crop production

ON THE BRIGADE:

- Community Bank meeting
- Family interviews
- Creating savings accounts & financial planning
- Loan opportunity identification
- Educational workshops (charlas)





PUBLIC HEALTH BRIGADES

- Improves health through the construction of latrines, water storage units, showers, and concrete floors
- The projects were chosen based on observations of medical brigade patient records, which illustrated high levels of respiratory illness, Chagas disease and other preventable ailments caused by poor in-home health infrastructure
- Basic Sanitation Committees are formed in communities to ensure project sustainability and maximum health impact





EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

ADULT AND FAMILY HEALTH EDUCATION

- Focuses on the importance, care, and maintenance of the construction projects
- This also initiates the proper dialogue to share other critical health concepts, such as treatment of potable drinking water and proper sanitation practices

KID'S HEALTH EDUCATION

- Dynamic mix of songs, games, and interactive simple activities but highly effective
- Teaches health promotion and disease prevention methods, and serves as a supplement to health education already taking place in the classroom



PUBLIC HEALTH BRIGADES



CONCRETE FLOORS

Chagas is a potentially fatal disease spread through insects that burrow into the ground and into adobe bricks

Children learn to crawl and walk in homes with bare feet, increasing parasitic infection

Concrete floors are a simple solution to this health challenge



HYGIENE STATION DESIGN

This design was piloted by the in-country staff in November 2011 in El Cantón. It includes the newest infrastructure project, a shower. The project was successful and well-received by the masons and community members, and has been incorporated into all Public Health Brigades.



LATRINES

Build latrines for sanitary and proper waste disposal

Latrines provide convenient and inexpensive solution near the home





ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE

- Reduces patients' need to walk hours or days for routine medical care or emergency procedures
- Patients avoid waiting hours in line at local health centers
- Patients receive medications that are often hard to find at local health centers due to lack of resources
- Patients receive healthcare education to prevent common illnesses
- Facilitates healthier, more productive lives

ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE AFFECTS

- Sanitation and hygiene
- Economic potential
- Future health





MEDICAL BRIGADES

- Provides communities with access to doctors and medicine every 3-4 months
- Through multiple 7 day brigades, community members receive doctor care, medicine, and health education workshops
- **Provides all eligible patients with anti-parasite medications, eliminating and preventing intestinal parasites for 4 months**





ONE-WEEK MEDICAL BRIGADE COMPONENTS

- **Volunteers work with licensed Panamanian medical professionals**
- **Brigades visit communities over 3 consecutive days**
- Volunteers & health professionals use Open MRS data software to track patient information and care
- Each daily clinic consists of the following stations:
 - Intake
 - Triage
 - Doctor consultation and gynecology station
 - Dental consultation
 - Prescription drop-off
 - Healthcare education workshops
 - Prescription pick-up and directions





**PANAMA LOSES
OVER 1% OF
PRIMARY FOREST
COVER ANNUALLY
DUE TO LOGGING,
RANCHING, AND
UNSUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURAL
METHODS**





THE ENVIRONMENT IS CONNECTED TO

- Natural resources and conservation
- Sanitation and public health
- Nutrition
- Water and food sources

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

- Lack of education regarding resource depletion, climate change, and deforestation
- No existing system of waste management
 - Current methods affect public and environmental health
- Current agricultural practices result in soil erosion and degradation, loss of biodiversity, and limited harvest yields





IMPLEMENTATION OF PHYSICAL COMPONENT

- Examples of physical projects
 - **Sustainable agriculture and agroforestry**
 - **Maintenance to community's crops and fields**
 - Make organic fertilizer
 - Other agricultural activities
 - More!

EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

- Waste management activities
 - Waste diversion
 - Recycling and reusing methods
 - Composting solutions
- Organic composts
- Plant care and disease control
- **General ecology**





DENTAL BRIGADES

- Provides communities with urgent & preventative dental services through access to dentists and medicine every 3-4 months
- Through multiple 7 day brigades, community members receive dentist visits, extractions, cleanings, fluoride treatments, medicine, and dental care education workshops





ONE-WEEK DENTAL BRIGADE COMPONENTS

- Dental works in conjunction with Medical Brigades
- Volunteers work with licensed dentists
- Brigades visit communities over 3 consecutive days
- Volunteers & health professionals use Open MRS data software to track patient information and care
- Each daily clinic consists of the following stations:
 - Intake
 - Triage
 - Dental consultation
 - Prescription drop-off
 - Healthcare education workshops
 - Prescription pick-up and directions





Each dental clinic includes a cleaning station and surgical station. Volunteers have the opportunity to observe dentists during operations

CLEANING STATION

- Teeth brushing and flossing
- Tooth decay check
- Fluoride treatments (by dentists)
- Dental education

SURGICAL STATION

- Topical anesthetic
- Extractions (by dentists)
- Fillings (by dentists)
- Cold sterilization
- Post-op instructions





**HOW DO I SIGN
UP?**





Apply For a Brigade!

1. Give us your email for our interest list
2. Look out for an informational email
3. Check out the universal application (find link via email or myUMBC)
4. Apps Open: **Friday April 24th at 12AM**
5. Priority Deadline: **Friday May 27th 11:59PM**
6. Final Deadline for consideration for Winter and Spring brigades: **Wednesday Sept. 9th 11:59PM**