



The following includes the trips Stonehill students are taking as participants in the 2014 H.O.P.E. Service Immersion Program.

**The number next to the location indicates the number of students participating.*

Ware: (11) In Ware Massachusetts we will be working with the Agape community to learn about sustainable living and practicing Christian non-violence. The students will work Agape's farm and immerse themselves in the Agape lifestyle of composting, fueling their "veggie car" and many other sustainable practices.

West Virginia: (15) In West Virginia students will work with The Appalachian Institute while encountering and learning about the social justice issues ranging from those surrounding mountain top removal, fracking, access to healthy food, and addiction.

Tennessee: (17) HOPE Tennessee will have the great opportunity of serving the Cocke and Sevier county communities through Sunset Gap Community Center. We will be assisting them in home reconstruction for underprivileged families that would not be able to finance or execute these repairs otherwise. Other services and programs that this community center supplies include, but certainly are not limited to, food pantries, thrift shops, and bible camps.

– *Bethany McNamara '16, Tennessee Co-Student Leader*



Kentucky: (10) The HOPE Kentucky group will be working with the Christian Appalachian Project to repair and construct homes in Eastern Kentucky. The group will be taking part in Work Fest, which happens annually and involves college students from around the country coming together to serve. We will be split into groups and will work with one family for the entire week so we can learn about their stories and create strong relationships. At the end of the week all of the families we have worked with come together with the volunteers to have a meal and share our experiences with one another.

– *Emily Dumont '14, Kentucky Student Leader*

Syracuse: (8) In Syracuse, NY, my group will be working with the L'Arche Community and encounter social justice issues pertaining to intellectual and developmental disabilities. We have not received a tentative schedule for the week yet, but are expecting to live, work, pray, and get to know the people of the L'Arche Community. – *Amanda Smith '14 Syracuse co-student leader*

Portland: (9) This trip focuses on the social justice issue of hunger and homelessness. Volunteers will mainly serve with the hospitality ministry at St. Andre Bessette Church in downtown Portland. Some of the community programs run by St. Andre include an art program, a foot care program, a food pantry, and fellowship groups. Volunteers will also to engage in service with the following organizations: Operation Nightwatch, Central City Concern, and L'Arche Portland. During the week long service immersion trip, students will learn about poverty in the Portland area and build community with those who are hungry, homeless, mentally ill, recovering from drug addiction and abuse, and living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. – *Andrea Maroun '14, Portland Student Leader*



NOLA: (18) HOPE New Orleans will be working with the St. Bernard Project and will not only learn about, but also improve the social justice issue of homelessness. After Hurricane Katrina hit this area about 9 years ago, the effects are still being felt today by these people. While on our trip, we will interact with the justice issue of homelessness physically and emotionally. With the family we'll be serving, we'll have the opportunity to hear their story and provide physical labor to improve their homes as well.

– *Caroline Thompson '16, NOLA Co-Student Leader*

Staten Island: (9) HOPE Staten Island will be doing hurricane relief work for those who suffered from Hurricane Sandy. We are working with the Episcopal Recovery team of Staten Island.

– *Kate Morneault '16, Staten Island Student Leader*

Bronx: (9) HOPE Bronx will be encountering the justice area of women, children, and education while we are working with the Mercy Center in Mott Haven, a community in the Bronx. Throughout the week, we will be taking part in many activities, including helping out at the daycare, tutoring a GED class, helping in elementary school classrooms, and doing projects with the after school program at the Mercy Center. –

Alyssa Torchio '14, Bronx Student Leader



Camden: (7) In Camden, New Jersey, the poorest city in the nation, trip participants tackled the social justice issue of urban poverty. Through both service of labor and service of presence, we were able to both give back to a community in need as well as get to know the residents of Camden on a personal level. The Romero Center, a retreat center focused on catholic social teaching, is the organization we stayed with, bringing Stonehill students and students from other colleges and universities together in order to share and reflect on what we were experiencing at our service sites on a daily basis.

– *Kelly Gouveia '14, Camden Student Leader*

New Mexico: (15) In Santa Fe, NM, my group worked in partnership with Via International and focused on Native American and immigration injustice. During the week that we were there, we were invited to a feast day at the Jemez Pueblo and learned about ancient Native traditions. On a different day, we were able to cook and eat breakfast with the day laborers, where learned about their individual immigration stories and struggles, all while practicing our Spanish and English communication skills. Sustainability and the connection of people to nature were topics of interest that we encountered every day.

– *Amanda Smith '14, New Mexico Co-Student Leader*

California March (18) & **May** (16): In Coachella Valley, California, Stonehill's HOPE group will be working with the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition to build affordable housing in southern California. On our trip, students will also be exposed to immigration issues and policy in America, and the injustices migrant farm workers face with pay and working conditions.

– *Aimee Morrison '14, California May Co-Student Leader*



Arizona: (7) HOPE Arizona will be traveling to the city of Phoenix where we will have the opportunity to experience the mission of the Andre House of Hospitality. This organization, which provides a wide variety of services to the population of Phoenix experiencing homelessness, was established through the Congregation of Holy Cross and grew out of the Catholic Worker Movement. During our time at Andre House, we will be assisting the staff as they serve meals and provide services including access to laundry, showers and other necessities that their guests might otherwise have to do without.

– *Dan Gardiner '14, Arizona Student Leader*

Peru: (23) While in Peru a big social justice issue we will encounter is poverty and access to natural resources. Since it does not rain often in Peru they experience a lot of water shortages. This is one of the reasons why we will be putting in turf grass on the playground. Even though it doesn't rain enough for grass or that the community can't afford to buy water needed to keep green grass healthy the children will still have a green space to play on. – *Chrissy Talbot '14, Peru Co-Student Leader*

Dominican Republic: (19) HOPE DR will serve the community of La Romana, DR at Hogar de Nino which is a school created to help underserved children in the area. Throughout the week, we will be teaching the Spanish speaking students English but we will also be in different areas in the school playing with the kids. During our trip, we will be able to understand how important education, shelter and food are in the Dominican Republic. – *Paul Ataide '14, DR Co-Student Leader*



Nicaragua: (9) In Chacraseca, Nicaragua we will be focusing our service on community development by working on various projects with the partner organization, FriendsNE. We encounter many forms of social injustices in Chacraseca, primarily stemming from economic challenges that the country as a whole faces, since a stable income for many families is hard to come by. Throughout the week we will work in areas such as education within the schools to provide english lessons and resources of learning, as well as construction projects to assist in the development of houses and other buildings throughout the community.

– *Lauren Mazzola '14, Nicaragua Co-Student Leader*

One of the greatest social issues our group will be encountering in Nicaragua is the access and equality of education. For a large part of our week, we will be working within local schools, providing support for teachers, and seeing first hand the unbelievable impact that education can make on the lives of children.

– *Matt Attaya '15, Nicaragua Co-Student Leader*

India: (11) Over winter break we worked with Maher, an organization that serves as a refuge for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence, but also poverty, hunger, and homelessness. While with Maher we witnessed what tremendous power love truly has on and in the life of a single person. It was an experience that is still difficult to put into words two months after being back, but all I can say is that I learned more in India with our one week at Maher than I could have ever learned in a classroom or from a book.

– *Amanda Chasey '14, India Co-Student Leader*