



Stonehill College Service Immersion

H.O.P.E. 2019-2020 Information Guidebook

H - Honoring our Neighbor

O - Organizing for Justice

P - Practicing Peace

E - Encountering God

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Any questions can be directed to
MaryAnne Davey at mdavey@stonehill.edu
or the HOPE interns at hope@stonehill.edu

Mission Statement

What is HOPE?

HOPE is Stonehill College's service immersion program. It is an acronym standing for the four main tenets of the program. HOPE is much more than a week of service. Participants of the program take part in weeks of preparation during which they learn about the four tenets, diversity, solidarity, and their specific host sites. Reflection on these and other topics also takes place on the immersions to make the experience more meaningful. Afterwards, groups continue to meet to further their understanding and discuss how to best advocate for the various social justice issues they encountered. HOPE aims to open its participants' eyes to the injustices around the world and across the street and hopes to motivate a passion for both change within themselves and within the world.

The Four Tenets

Honoring our Neighbor

We seek to walk alongside people in the communities to which we travel, showing our love and concern for them mostly by our presence and by any service we are asked to provide.

Organizing for Justice

By encountering situations of domestic and international injustice, we seek to name the underlying causes of these situations; that we might be able to work towards their resolution.

Practicing Peace

We foster and build relationships with communities to promote nonviolent understanding amongst varying cultures at home and abroad, in an effort to end indifference and ignorance.

Encountering God

Rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the Gospel, we are open to finding the living God amongst those who are suffering injustices and within ourselves.

Proposed Schedules

****Your site or the program may have additional meetings not listed here. Committee work, fundraising and other preparations will require additional time commitments outside of the presented schedule.****

Winter Immersions

- Information Sessions: *September 3rd, 4th & 5th:5:30-6:30, Cleary Dining Hall*
- Application Help: *September 11th, 18th, 25th 6:30-8:00pm(different res halls)*
- Applications Due: *Friday September 27th, by 5:00 PM*
- International Interviews: *September 30th- October 7th*
- Applicants Notified of Acceptance: *Friday, October 11th by 5:00 PM*
- Participant Non-Refundable Deposit: *Friday, October 18th, by 5:00 PM*
- Pre-travel Health Forms Due: *Friday, October 25th by 4:30 PM, Health Services*
- Participant Orientation: *Wednesday, October 23rd, 6:30-8:00 PM*
- **For those who have submitted all forms and fee payments*

- **Wednesday Night Group Meetings:** ***October 30, November 6, 13, 20
& December 4, 6:30-8:00 PM***
- Send-Off Mass: *Sunday, December 8th at 7:00 PM Mass*
- Group Fundraising Deadline: *Friday, November 29th by 5:00 PM*
- Final Payments Due: *Friday, December 6th, by 5:00 PM*
- Winter Immersions: *Saturday, January 4th - Saturday, January 11th*
- Re-Entry Gathering: *Wednesday, January 15th, 22nd, 29th 6:30-8:00 PM*
- Full Group Re-Entry Gathering: *Wednesday, March 25th, 6:30-8:00 PM*
- Advocacy Day: *Wednesday, April 22nd*

Spring Break Immersions

- Information Sessions: *September 3rd, 4th and 5th: 5:30-6:30 PM*
- Application Help: *September 11th, 18th, 25th 6:30-8:00 PM (different res halls)*
- Applications Due: *Friday September 27th, by 5:00 PM*
- International Interviews: *September 30th - October 7th*
- Applicants Notified of Acceptance: *Friday, October 11th by 5:00 PM*
- Participant Non-Refundable Deposit: *Friday, October 18th by 5:00 PM*
- Pre-travel Health Forms Due: *Friday, October 25th, by 4:30 PM, Health Services*
 - Participant Orientation: *Wednesday, October 23rd, 6:30-8:00 PM*
 - ****For those who have submitted all forms and fee payments***
- 2 Meetings in Fall Semester: *determined by group leaders*
- **Wednesday Night Group Meetings: *January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, & 26, March 4 at 6:30-8:00pm***
- Group Fundraising Deadline: *Friday, February 7th by 5:00 PM*
- Final Payments Due: *Friday, February 14th by 5:00 PM*
- Send-Off Mass: *Sunday, March 1st at 7:00 PM Mass*
- Spring Break: *March 7th –14th, 2020*
- Re-Entry Site Group Meeting: *Wednesday, March 18th, 25th, April 1st 6:30-8:00 PM*
- Re-Entry Gathering: *Wednesday, March 25th, 6:30-8:00 PM*
- Advocacy Day: *Wednesday, April 22nd*

May Immersions

- Information Sessions: *September 3rd 4th & 5th 5:30-6:30 PM, Cleary Dining Hall*
- Applications due: *Friday, September 27th, by 5:00 PM*
- International Interviews: *September 30th-October 7th*
- Applicants Notified of Acceptance: *Friday, October 11th by 5:00 PM*
- Participant Non-Refundable Deposit: *Friday, October 18th, by 5 PM*
- Pre-travel Health Forms Due: *Friday, October 25th, by 4:30 PM, Health Services*
- Participant Orientation: *Wednesday, October 23rd, 6:30-8:00 PM*
- ****For those who have submitted all forms and fee payments***
- 2 meetings in the Fall Semester: *determined by group leaders*
- 2 meetings before Spring Break: *determined by group leaders*
- Wednesday Night Large Group Meetings: *January 29th February 26th & March 25th 6:30-8:00 pm*
- **Wednesday Night Small Group Meetings: *March 25th, April 1st, 15th, 22nd, 29th 6:30-8:00 PM***
- Group Fundraising Deadline: *Friday, April 24th*
- Final Payments Due: *Friday, May 1st, by 5:00 PM*
- Advocacy Day: *Wednesday, April 22nd*
- Send-Off Mass: *Sunday, April 26th, at 7:00 PM Mass*
- Summer Immersions: *May 18th -28th, 2020*

Requirements for Applicants

Wednesday Night Meetings

All participants are required to attend meetings on Wednesday nights. If you have a class in the fall on a Wednesday night but are applying for the spring/summer semester you are able to participate. If you are applying for a winter immersion, you must attend Wednesday night meetings and thus cannot have a class from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the fall semester. You cannot take a Wednesday night class in the spring semester if you are applying for the spring or summer programs. If you do apply for the spring or summer immersions and then take a Wednesday night class in the spring semester, you are responsible for the entire cost of your trip and will not be allowed to participate in the program.

Study Abroad Applicants

Anyone who is studying abroad in the fall semester may apply only for the H.O.P.E. Domestic spring immersions or May domestic immersions. No exceptions.

Attendance

The orientation meetings are mandatory. If you miss more than one meeting you will need to meet separately with the Assistant Director of Campus Ministry to discuss your commitment to the program and possible dismissal.

Application & Pre-Travel Health Form

The applications will be available on September 6th on the Campus Ministry website. You may apply online for either H.O.P.E. Domestic or H.O.P.E. International. At the time of application, you will need to fill out a travel medical release form in consultation with your doctor. Please be mindful of this as you apply and take your medical needs seriously. Your health is the most important aspect of your life!

Due Dates

The applications are due on September 27th by 5:00 p.m. The application will be online and the link will become inactive at 5:00 p.m. on the 27th. You are thus unable to apply after the deadline. No exceptions.

Behavior Requiring Disciplinary Action

All students who apply for H.O.P.E. are required to abide by Stonehill College's Student Code of Conduct. Anyone who breaches this policy will be adjudicated by the Office of Community Standards. Your posture and actions reflect the college at all times and thus a deep level of responsibility and appropriate behavior is expected.

Trigger Warning

Trigger

What Can Be Triggering through H.O.P.E.?

H.O.P.E. in and of itself will create anxiety in the most healthy of people. When thinking of applying for H.O.P.E., please remember the following scenarios are possible:

- Driving upwards of 18 hours to location
- Sharing a small space with entire delegation
- Experiencing rural, urban or international poverty
- Limited access to showering
- Restricted communication with support networks
- Possible homestay within a different cultural context
- Testimony from people who have been through trauma
- Learning about privilege, power and oppression
- Not controlling food options
- Uncontrollable travel delays or changes
- Learning about justice issues and everyday struggles of others

Be Mindful

Knowing your limits is the most important aspect of living a healthy life. If you believe these types of experiences may be too much for you right now, it is best to wait until you have further developed resiliency in coping. Speak with your therapists, family and medical providers for honest reflection on your abilities to handle the stress of travel. If you are triggered on these immersions beyond your comfort level, your presence could have an impact on the group dynamic and receiving community. The staff and student leaders who travel with you will notify the Assistant Director of Campus Ministry about possible issues that come up so you can adequately get the help you may need.

Support Upon Return

If you encounter a very triggering experience, the staff or student leader will follow-up with the Assistant Director of Campus Ministry. The Campus Minister may follow-up with you directly and encourage you to avail yourself of services at the college for further care and health. In some cases, the Campus Minister may go directly to the Dean of Students to set in motion a plan of care for your well-being. Your health and well-being are of primary concern at all times.

Cell Phone Policy

“Presence is a gift that we give each other.”

. Domestic Cell Phone Policy:

In solidarity with the individuals we are serving, cell phones **MAY NOT** be used while on site. Cell phones will be locked away in a “cell phone island” bag. Students may use their cell phones only during *travel times* as other times (meals, reflection, group bonding, travel to and from the worksite each day, etc.) should be spent connecting with the other students and leaders. The purpose of this guideline is for students to be present and in the moment thinking about the H.O.P.E. experience, instead of constantly focusing on engaging with friends and family back home. Family and friends may check Campus Ministry at Stonehill College on facebook for updates on their students’ trip. **If a student (or family) does not feel comfortable not having contact with their family (or student) for the entirety of the trip, the student SHOULD NOT apply for a H.O.P.E immersion.**

. International Cell Phone Policy:

Students that happen to have international service phone plans must abide by the domestic cell phone policy guidelines. If a student does not have an international service phone plan, they **MAY NOT** use the Stonehill College employee cell phone to make personal phone calls to friends and family. Their family may check the Campus Ministry at Stonehill College facebook page which will be updated regularly with photos of their students’ trip. **If a student (or family) does not feel comfortable not having contact with their family (or student) for the entirety of the trip, the student SHOULD NOT apply for an international H.O.P.E immersion.**

. Large Group & Small Group Meetings Cell Phone Policy:

Students **MAY NOT** use cell phones during Large & Small Group Meetings. Leaders will have a “cell phone island” bin to collect student cell phones at the beginning of the meeting and return them at the conclusion of the meeting. This policy is to ensure active participation in the discussions and prepare for the cell phone separation during the H.O.P.E. immersion.

Costs and Finances

• **Costs**

Domestic immersions have been funded greatly by a grant. We are still awaiting confirmation of the grant for this year, so we are proceeding as if we do not have the grant to pay for the immersions. The college does not give the Office of Campus Ministry funding for the H.O.P.E. immersions so it is your responsibility to fundraise and pay for your experience. If you are unable to pay for your immersion and still go on said trip, a hold will be placed on your account until the payment has been made in full for the trip.

• **Payment Due Dates**

At the time of acceptance on October 11th, students will be given a time when they are to confirm their participation in the program. At the time they commit to the program, they will need to put down a non-refundable deposit toward the administrative costs of the program in the amounts of \$200 for the domestic sites and \$250 for international sites. If they decide not to participate in the program, then we will fill the open space with someone from the waitlist and keep the deposit.

• **Fundraising Requirements**

All academic year, students will work diligently to fundraise for the cost of their experience. They will work with their group to bring in money for their delegation which will go to bring down the cost of the trip for all participants. All participants are required to fundraise \$100 towards group fundraising. All winter immersion students will be notified of their remaining balance after their group fundraising is processed. They will pay the remaining balance by Reading Day to ensure participation in the program.

All spring break students will be notified of their cost per person in January after all the group fundraising has been completed. Summer students will learn of this cost by the end of April and their final payment will be due on Reading Day.

This remaining balance can be paid directly by the student online or to the Office of Campus Ministry in the student's name. Students can do personal fundraising as well which means they directly receive "sponsors" through online fundraising. All payments made by to the student will be used towards final payment and will be due prior to departure of the immersions. To make this less of a financial burden on yourself and your family, it is HIGHLY recommended you be innovative with your fundraising efforts!

• **Scholarship Information**

Please be prudent in your selection of sites based on the financial need you have and the cost of the experiences. You may apply for scholarships but know that there are many students who need scholarships to be able to participate in the program, and preference will be given based on need.

Important Definitions to Inform Your H.O.P.E. Application:

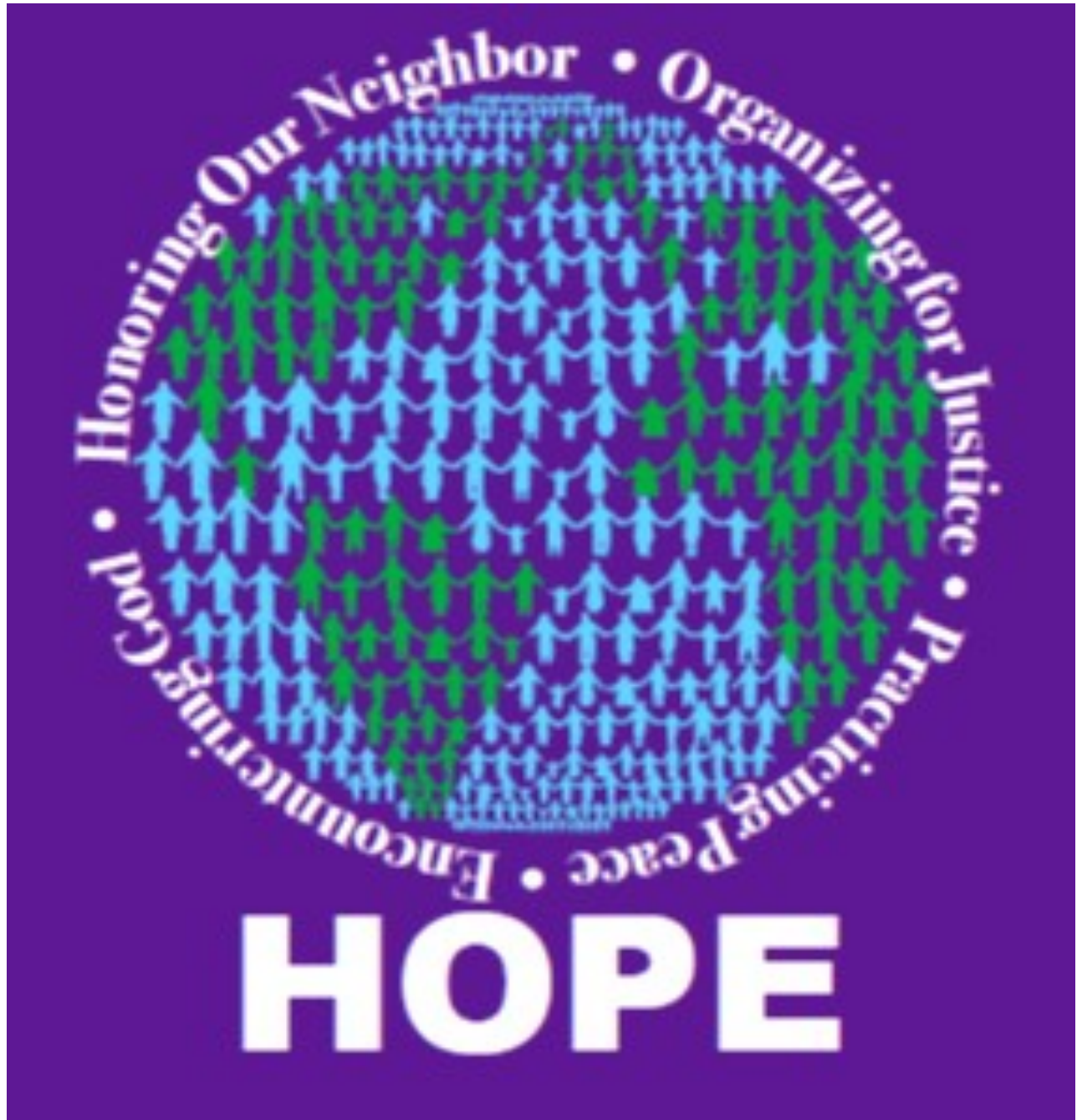
Mission Trip: A mission trip can be domestic or international, where participants enter into a community and engage with members in hopes of using their faith and image of God to evangelize. Direct service is generally partaken in during a mission trip as well as building of churches or working in religiously affiliated schools is typical.

Service Trip: A service trip is a traditional experience in which a group lives in community with people they are serving, generally in an area different than their home community and provides a direct service to that group such as building, delivering food, stocking shelves, tangible outcomes of hardwork which mean a lot to the receiving communities.

Voluntourism: An experience which comes from pre-planned travel and includes service and tourism. Usually done more as a cultural experience for the participant and less to learn about the community or understand the structures that oppress the population. The experience can be valuable, but not engaging with the community or reflecting on the experience and the impact on both parties is unsustainable and at times more harmful than helpful. The focus is more on the experience of the traveler than on the sustainable change or cultural respect of the population encountered. **HOPE is not voluntourism.**

Immersion Trip: Immersion is an alternative break or course experience in which learning is the focus, and one is immersed and totally engaged with a community- though they may not be doing direct service. Participants in immersion have conversations, and learn from community members of a marginalized group, without a tangible outcome. Immersions focus on systemic change and understanding structures in place that create the society today, and less on the individual experiences of building homes or serving food.

HOPE 2019-2020



SITE GUIDE

Indigenous Community, Environmental Justice

Northern New Mexico

This HOPE group travels to Santa Fe, NM and focuses on Native American and immigration injustices. While on site, The Community Learning Network organizes opportunities to serve food to those who are hungry and work in food pantries. This experience involves learning about ancient Native traditions through both immersion and service. Additionally, participants hear about day laborers' individual immigration stories and struggles. Sustainability and the connection of people to nature are topics of interest that are encountered every day in New Mexico.



“If you are present in the moment you are finally aware of your surroundings” - Josh

This quote was said by a man who took us hiking in New Mexico while trying to explain to us the importance of the balance of nature and the meaning of survival as a human being. Coming from a person who was quite not present in the moment often, finally being able to be aware of surroundings was something I was trying to learn while on this HOPE experience in New Mexico. This experience not only built new friendships and memories with the Stonehill community, but also created a drive to give back and aid underserved and deserving populations in New Mexico and here at home. “

-George Nardone, Class of 2020

Fast Facts:

- Winter Break
- Immersion Trip
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$2000
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <http://www.communitylearningnetwork.org/>

Civil Rights, Race, Political Advocacy

Atlanta, Georgia; Selma & Montgomery, Alabama

HOPE Georgia participants have a truly immersive and educational experience working with Lydia's House in Atlanta. Participants learn about the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life by journeying to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. Based on King's beliefs, nonviolence was the driving force behind the Montgomery Bus Boycotts, Nashville sit-ins, and the Selma to Montgomery marches. The experience will walk in the footsteps of Dr. King and is a collaborative immersion run in conjunction with Intercultural Affairs.

“HOPE Atlanta was an eye opening experience that inspired me to be a more influential advocate for racial justice. By visiting sites like the Civil Rights Museum, having discussions, and watching important movies about this topic, I realized how important it is to draw attention to the racial injustices in our society if we want to make a change.”

-Michaela Sullivan, Class of 2019



Fast Facts:

- Winter Break
- Immersion Trip
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$1500
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- *Websites: <http://www.lydiashouse.net/> ; <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/>*

Human Trafficking

Miami, Florida

The HOPE Miami group works with the Life of Freedom Center, which provides free support and restorative programs for female survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. This HOPE group takes part in an immersion that prepares them to effectively mobilize and respond to domestic sex trafficking. The group serves survivors along with children and young adults at risk of being enslaved. This multi-day immersion includes workshops led by experienced trainers and hours of field practice opportunities such as visits with law enforcement, service projects with local organizations, daytime street outreach, phone outreach, and stories from survivors.



“My experience with HOPE Miami was incredible. I learned so much about the issue of human trafficking both globally and locally. This is an issue that not only affects those involved, but the greater community as well. Human trafficking is not something that should be ignored, it should be discussed and challenged if we want to make a change. The HOPE Program helps me to acknowledge and challenge these issues, while also introducing me to the incredible people who already are [challenging the issue]. This Miami experience opened my eyes to how lucky I am to have a support system both at home and at Stonehill, and inspires me to support those who may not have as strong of a system.”

-Sarah Jacobson, Class of 2020

Fast Facts:

- Winter Break
- Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$1700
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <https://www.lofcenter.org>

Urban Poverty

Washington, D.C

At the Steinbruck Center in Washington, D.C., participants tackle the social justice issue of urban poverty and other intersecting social justice issues. The Steinbruck Center provides an urban immersion experience that consists of not only education but also, direct service, experiential learning and critical analysis/reflection. The HOPE group gains awareness, reflects and is inspired to return as agents of change to address root causes of poverty in their home communities. The HOPE group explores the city of Washington, D.C and learns about the history, participates in workshops, direct service work and much more.



“HOPE Washington DC taught me about urban poverty, it taught me about the extreme wealth gap that exists in DC, and it taught me about the devastating effects of gentrification in the city. This service immersion experience allowed me to open my heart to the people experiencing homelessness in DC and learn the importance of empathy over sympathy. I was able to take what I learned and experienced and apply it to my semester abroad in London which is another city with high levels of urban poverty. HOPE DC change my outlook on a lot of things in my life and I am so thankful to have had this experience.”

-Erin Flanagan, Class of 2020

Fast Facts:

- Winter Break
- Direct Service/ Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$1500
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <https://www.steinbruckcenter.org>

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

Haverhill, Massachusetts

In Haverhill, HOPE participants work with the L'Arche Community and encounter social justice issues pertaining to intellectual and developmental disabilities. L'Arche is made up of multiple houses, each with "core members" or people with disabilities and full time volunteers. HOPE Haverhill spends time with the core members and assists the care takers in cooking and cleaning the homes and other services based on needs of the community. The delegation immerses themselves in the L'Arche community and learns about the social exclusion barriers faced by people with various disabilities. More than anything, participants take an adventure in learning



"My immersive experiences to HOPE Haverhill changed the course of my life in the most wonderful way possible. Through my time at HOPE Haverhill, I learned the true meaning of love and friendship, by sharing time and building relationships with adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as the assistants. I loved my experience so much that I am now working as a live-in assistant and experiencing the joy that is L'Arche all the time"

-Emily Rowland, Class of 2019

Fast Facts:

- Winter Break
- Direct Service Trip with Immersion Elements
- Trip size: 6
- Actual cost: \$500
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit ONLY*
- Website: <http://larchebostonnorth.org/>

Sustainability, Environmental Justice, Elder Care

Wheeling, West Virginia

The West Virginia HOPE immersion is focused on the issues of sustainability, environmental justice, poverty, and elder care. In West Virginia, hydraulic fracturing or fracking, mountain top removal, and lack of access to food are some of the key issues that surround the area. The land is commonly exploited and the people who live there often have to suffer from this exploitation because West Virginia is rich in natural resources. The state also has an extremely high elderly population, many of whom have no nearby caretakers. Participants of HOPE West Virginia work with the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling Jesuit University to learn about these issues and the true value of community. They also give their service to a variety of programs such as a community run garden, food pantries, soup kitchens, elderly care facilities and many others.



“This man named Guy gave our group a little pep talk. In it, he said, ‘It’s not about the work you get done; it’s about the Relationships you build.’ This quote put the experience of being in West Virginia into perspective for me. It’s not about saving the most lives or being recognized for doing service or anything like that. It’s about people being there for others and trying to spread hope to all. “

-Jason DiCenso, Class of 2022

Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Trip size: 10
- Direct Service with Immersion elements
- Actual cost: \$700 *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 deposit ONLY*
- Website: www.wju.edu/ai/immersion.asp

Community Center, Home Repair, Rural Poverty

Cosby, Tennessee

HOPE Tennessee participants have the opportunity to serve the communities surrounding the Sunset Gap Community Center. They assist with home repair for underserved families who are unable to finance or execute construction otherwise. Many people living in this part of Tennessee deal with rural poverty in Appalachia.

Participants learn about the local economic situation and understand the importance of land and community. Other services and programs that the Sunset Gap Community Center offers include, but certainly are not limited to a food pantry, thrift store and vacation bible camps.



“It is one thing to read about statistics in a book. It is another to see first-hand the effects that poverty has on everyday life. Meeting and hearing the stories all these wonderful people had to share was an unforgettable experience. I am truly grateful for the experience H.O.P.E. Tennessee gave me.”

- Scott Aloisio, Class of 2022

Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Direct Service
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$1500
- *Stonehill Cost With Grant: \$200 Deposit*
- Website: www.sunsetgap.com

Hunger, Homelessness, Poverty

Phoenix, Arizona

HOPE Arizona participants travel to the city of Phoenix 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 their time at the Andre House, students assist 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.

"I want to start out by saying that this HOPE experience to Arizona has changed my life forever. I cannot emphasize enough the countless lessons that I have learned over the course of the week. Immersing yourself into a new environment with a variety of people that you don't know is the best opportunity to push yourself out of your comfort zone. The people that I have met in Arizona were without a doubt life changing. Their resilience, motivation and positivity was unlike no other; regardless of their current situation, they were genuine and extremely willing to open up about their past homelessness experiences. It's clear that Arizona has taught me a variety of lessons that I will carry with me for years."

-Katie McDonough, Class of 2019



Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Direct Service/ Immersion
- Trip size: 8
- Actual cost: \$1700
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <http://andrehouse.org/>

Hunger, Homelessness, Poverty, Healthcare

Portland, Oregon

This immersion focuses on the social justice issues of hunger and homelessness as well as community healthcare and mental health. Volunteers work in collaboration with JOIN in downtown Portland. Participants also engage in service with the following organizations: St. Andre Bessette Catholic Church Meal Program, Operation Nightwatch, Central City Concern, and L'Arche Portland. During the week long service immersion, students 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.



“The reality of the daily struggles that individuals had to face in Portland showed me that life is truly unpredictable. That being said, people need to hold onto values and truths that keep them strong and empowered to continue to succeed. HOPE is not just a temporary relief for the people in the community, but it can also be viewed as a permanent reminder to the people suffering in Portland that they are never alone. God called us there to do His work by bringing Respect (H), Equity (O), Security (P), and Spirituality (E) into each loving gesture we felt with the people we interacted with.”

-Kevin Dudley, Class of 2019

Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Direct Service/ Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$1800
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <http://saintandrechurch.org/>; <https://joinpdx.org/>

Hurricane Relief, Poverty

New Orleans, Louisiana

This HOPE experience works with the SBP in New Orleans. The effects of Hurricane Katrina are still being felt today by thousands of people even 14 years after it occurred. Participants on this immersion experience social justice issues surrounding homelessness, poverty and disparity with relief work. The group takes part in construction work in an effort to serve those still suffering from the impact of the hurricane. Participants have the opportunity to meet the families they serve and hear their stories. The delegation is hosted by Camp Hope, a housing ministry to volunteers in New Orleans full of love and support.



“The New Orleans location for H.O.P.E. was one rich with culture, stories, and service. New Orleans suffered tragic destruction through Hurricane Katrina, but there are so many other elements that played factors in the healing and rebuilding of the city that went unpublicized. Most people would be shocked to find out that it still isn't fully recovered. While in NOLA, we got the chance to speak to the passionate citizens that's love for New Orleans its culture never faltered. All the organizations we served with, SBP, Camp Hope and Love in Action, work tirelessly and persistently for justice and it was amazing to bear witness to their work. “

-Emily Casey, Class of 2019

Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Direct Service Trip
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$2000
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <http://www.stbernardproject.org/>

Indigenous Community, Land Rights, Immigration

Nibezan Community

Passadumkeag, Maine

This HOPE group travels to Maine and explores the topic of land rights, water rights, and the history of the Indigenous community in Maine working with International Partners in Mission. Additionally, the group learns about the injustices of Native Americans, specifically the Wabanaki tribe. The delegation meets and learns from the Latino immigrant community and delves into questions regarding justice for immigrants and refugees along with the rights of those whose land Maine was prior to the “founding” of America.

"HOPE Maine was my first experience with the HOPE service-immersion program, and it was by far one of the most rewarding and meaningful experiences during my time at Stonehill. Our site leaders and the members of the Wabanaki tribe that we met with welcomed us into their community with open arms. This trip challenged me to embrace new perspectives in order to better understand the founding of the United States and how native peoples are locked in a struggle for their rights. Throughout the week, we learned how resources such as land and water are so important to the Wabanaki peoples, and why the indigenous can be more susceptible to poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and intergenerational trauma. This experience was truly memorable, and I hope that I can continue to advocate for indigenous rights, as well as for other areas of social justice."

-Kendra Adams, Class of 2020



Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$1200
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit*
- Website: <https://www.ipmconnect.org/the-ipm-immersion-model>

Immigration, Community Development & Civil Rights

San Diego, California

Working with Via International, the HOPE delegation travels to the most highly trafficked border in the entire world and explores the topic of immigration. At the U.S./ Mexico border, students learn from the Chicano community, an identity that makes up one third of the city's population and that has been highly underrepresented politically. This group compares immigration stereotypes in the media with real-life stories. Students hear from community activists who bring reform to this large humanitarian issue. The group participates in community building workshops and learns the first-hand highlighted differences between life on both sides of the wall. Altogether, this delegation learns how those living only 15 miles from a border of two different societies work to counter the media's stereotypes and continue to build a just and compassionate shared world

"I am overwhelmed with the kindness and compassion I experienced during my time with H.O.P.E San Diego. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to learn and grow through the many people I met with Via international and the Chicano Community. Throughout the week, I was able to gain a new perspective and knowledge on the misunderstood issues surrounding immigration. I was inspired by the strong sense of pride the Chicano people have for their culture, traditions and all that they believe in. As I am continuously moved by my time in San Diego I look forward to making the next steps to continue to create a more just and compassionate world."

-Nicole Sadoway, Class of 2020



Fast Facts:

- Summer Break
- Service and Immersion
 - Trip size: 10
 - Actual cost: \$2000
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <http://www.viainternational.org/locations/san-diego>

Migrant Farmworker Rights, Labor Rights & Immigration

Apopka, Florida

HOPE Florida participants are truly immersed in a migrant farmworker lifestyle working alongside clients of the Hope CommUnity Center. Volunteers live with host families, work in produce fields, and understand the injustices that happen within our immigration system. The service portion of this immersion is spent working alongside the community in the nursery, planting, cleaning and performing other needed tasks. In the afternoons, the groups come together for learning modules to explore issues surrounding immigration in the United States. First hand testimony and experience is shared from people who are undocumented thus leaving participants transformed forever.

“ Going to Apopka was one of the greatest volunteering experiences I’ve had. My host family was so welcoming and so open to share their personal stories with someone who was staying in their house for a week. The obstacles that undocumented people have to face is tragic, and this experience taught me so much that I never knew. If I could do this again, I would.”

-Katherine Perez, Class of 2021



Fast Facts:

- Summer Break
- Direct Service/ Immersion Trip
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: \$1500
- *Stonehill Cost with Grant: \$200 Deposit and \$500 Travel Fee*
- Website: <http://hcc-offm.org/>

Education, Disability Awareness, International Poverty

Canto Grande, Peru

While in Peru, participants will encounter a variety of social justice issues including poverty, education, and access to natural resources. HOPE Peru works with a local school called Fe y Alegria and a center for children with physical and intellectual disabilities founded by the Holy Cross Congregation called Yancana Huasy, where participants will offer their time and presence. The experience as a whole is largely focused on gaining an understanding of the immense poverty Peru. Close relationships developed with locals also provides participants with the opportunity to see past the poverty and be exposed to the generosity, compassion, and love that is inherent within the community of Canto Grande.



"Never before had I experienced people with such profound joy and hope while surrounded by incredible rural poverty. I learned more than I could have ever asked for from the people of Canto Grande with their rich culture and spirit, and made me realize that there is so much more that I can give to my own communities. HOPE Peru was one of the hallmark experiences of my Stonehill career."

-Jimmy Coppinger, Class of 2019

Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Direct Service/ Immersion Elements
- Trip size: 10
- Cost: \$2500
- Website: <http://www.centropeyton.org/index.php>

Women's Empowerment, Education, Health, Nutrition & Micro-Finance

El Cercado, Dominican Republic

This group travels to the El Cercado, Dominican Republic and explores Community Development & Micro Finance with Women's groups. They visit the colonial Zone, historical sites in the downtown area of Santo Domingo. Then they travel to Hondo Valle, a community which closely borders Haiti and meet with IPM nutrition Project Partners. The group also meet women workers and learn about their work with the courts and certificates of live births, tour home gardens and greenhouses, visit health centers, hospital, etc. Not only does this immersion allow the group to learn about the history of the DR and the culture but it also looks into injustices in DR, such as access to clean water, health and nutrition as well as women's empowerment and education.

"Before going to HOPE DR, I was unaware of how much I could grow as a person in only a week. HOPE DR was one of my favorite experiences during my senior year of college. My group was able to partake in several different activities that involved community members all across the city of El Cercado. The conversations I had with folks left me feeling both inspired and loved. I truly thank the HOPE Program and Stonehill College for allowing me to embrace my passion for social justice on a service-immersion trip that truly values community."

-Lauren Wallace, Class of 2019



Fast Facts:

- Spring Break
- Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Cost: \$2500
- Website: <https://ipmconnect.org/immersion-experience/where-we-go/>

Liberation Theology & Holy Cross Spirituality

Santiago, Chile

Since 1943, the Congregation of Holy Cross has been accompanying the people of Santiago and neighboring communities in Chile. This immersion focuses on liberation theology, a theology from the perspective of people in poverty. The Holy Cross priests and brothers accompanied the people of Chile throughout the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet and never abandoned the people most in need. While on this experience, participants will meet with various Holy Cross communities, serve people who are homeless, stay with host families from a Holy Cross parish and learn the meaning of solidarity and transformation through the spirituality of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

“The experience in Chile is truly one of a kind. It is a remarkable opportunity to be immersed in the work of Holy Cross. Learning stories from Holy Cross missionary priests who have dedicated their lives in service to those on the margins, one comes away from this experience energized and ready to live the charisms and gifts of the community. Truly, this experience will transform all who attend in the most powerful and beautiful of ways.”

-MaryAnne Davey
Campus Minister



Fast Facts:

- Summer Break
- Immersion Experience with Direct Service
- Trip size: 10
- Cost: \$2500
- Website: <http://holycrosscongregation.org/where-we-serve/chile/>