

The Peacework Fellowship in Agriculture & Nutrition

Terms of Agreement for Summer 2012

Background

Peacework is a program of the Peacework Development Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization that develops and manages global partnerships in education, development, and service. In most cases, these partnerships involve universities and colleges and sometimes corporations that seek to make a positive difference in our world. The partners are typically local communities or villages in developing countries and the peer groups and organizations that engage in collaborative projects with the sponsoring institution. The sponsors such as colleges are resource institutions and the communities abroad are the teachers and consultants on economic development and social disparities. Some projects are focused on a specific discipline such as agriculture while other projects are multi-disciplinary, engaging the entire university in a partnership over five or more years with their counterparts in the global village.

The school garden in Pomona, Belize, developed in collaboration with the University of Arkansas



Project Scenario

One of the best and most productive connections between universities and villages in developing countries are through local schools. Local schools and other children's institutions such as orphanages - whether in a larger city such as Calcutta, a small rural village such as Pomona in Belize, or the Zamane Township in South Africa - are points of engagement across multiple disciplines and the foundation of economic development and social change. Yet, in many schools in developing countries it has been our experience that one of the largest obstacles to education and development is hunger. Many children come to school hungry, never having received the proper food and nutrition for their own growth as well as their learning. Peacework and other organizations such as the Food & Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO) have developed school garden projects designed to mitigate this problem. However, the Peacework school garden concept goes one step further. Not only does Peacework work alongside children, teachers, and principals to install school gardens, but Peacework also develops a collaborative partnership

between the school, the garden project, and a supporting institution such as a university. This partnership helps ensure that the garden is well-designed, appropriate for the soil and produce of a particular region, has volunteer support, has a curriculum that can be used in the schools to support the garden, has proper technical support for irrigation and security, and has a design that ensures long-term management of the garden and distribution of produce.

Challenge

The Bonner Foundation supports nearly 90 colleges and universities to be engaged in community service and they are developing a new and exciting global village partnership for those institutions in collaboration with Peacework. What if – those Bonner institutions each sponsored a garden in a village in the developing world? Rider University would sponsor a garden in La Carpio in Costa Rica, Lynchburg College in Castries in St. Lucia, Waynesburg University in the impoverished neighborhood of Port Loyola in Belize City, and so on. What would this model encompass in terms of garden design, initial and on-going collaboration, curriculum, volunteer participation, and financial resources? Using the FAO framework for a school garden, what modifications would we make that ensure adequate support, utilization, and distribution of garden resources?

Vision

Our vision is 30 model school gardens disbursed around the world, sponsored by institutions of higher education and installed through a partnership with local primary schools or other children's institutions in a variety of agricultural environments and social settings.

Goal

Publish a prospectus for universities for model school gardens.

Phases

1. Conduct an assessment of the school garden in Pomona, Belize.
2. Review and evaluate the FAO model in light of the Pomona experience – which aspects of the garden or the FAO model would enrich the other and its prospect for long-term success.
3. Create a Peacework prospectus for academic engagement in school gardens on a global scale, highlighting sample scenarios with different soils, compatible produce for different regions, and economic viability.
4. Create an inventory of school locations, perhaps through an existing network of schools in which university partnerships would be conducive to broader program development.
5. Create an inventory of university agricultural programs that could serve as resources for a global school garden initiative (Virginia Tech, Arkansas, NCSU, and others).
6. Design a model garden that could be adapted by size, types of produce, environmental conditions, and different resources using garden produce for school lunches and marketing cash produce.
7. Finalize the model garden program so that it can be published.

Dates and Location

The dates of the Fellowship should be determined by the participant with Peacework in advance, including specific start and end dates. It is

expected that the Fellowship would be 8-10 weeks engaged in the program on a full-time basis. The participant may work from any location. The participant may also work before and after the summer period.

Financial Terms

The Summer 2012 Fellowship participant would receive a stipend (amount based on duration and goals) and all direct expenses and travel would be reimbursed or paid by Peacework during full-time assignment. The stipend is payable at the conclusion of the Fellowship. It is assumed that the Fellowship participant would be enrolled in a program of their university that provides health insurance or that a short-term policy would be arranged by the participant on their own. Global medical insurance would be provided by Peacework during travel overseas, if and when needed. No other housing or health benefits would be provided.

Other

The Fellowship participant should create a weekly plan, clearly articulate objectives, and provide a weekly status report. Once the specific dates of the Fellowship are determined, a mid-term and final assessment should be scheduled. Should a prospectus be published as a result of this Fellowship, the publication would have the participant's name as the author or co-author and Peacework would retain all copyrights.

Contact

The primary contact with Peacework would be Steve Darr, Executive Director, steve@peacework.org or 540-953-1376.

Agreement

We hereby agree to the terms of this Fellowship or terms modified by subsequent planning or any revised program objectives.

Stephen Darr, Peacework (date) _____

_____ Participant (date) _____
Print Sign

Participant cell phone _____

Participant mailing address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Participant passport number _____ Country _____

Participant passport expiration date _____

Beginning date _____ End date _____

Participant emergency contact _____

Emergency contact phone _____

Academic endorsement _____