International Service

International voluntary service provides students with a transformative experience that may increase global awareness, inform their future academic and career paths, and contribute to communities worldwide. These opportunities go beyond expanding perspectives to instill in young people an understanding of how they can become active, thoughtful citizens in today’s global society.

Washington University has readily responded to a strong desire to engage with local communities abroad. For example, numerous international service trips occur during spring, winter, and fall break. University faculty have coordinated service opportunities with their research partners all around the world. At the graduate level, the schools of Medicine and Law have sent student and faculty cohorts to provide basic care and legal aid to people who are underserved in other countries.

An exciting new initiative, developed jointly by the Gephardt Institute and the International and Area Studies Program in Arts & Sciences, offers an international service-learning program designed

“I have been given so much, and have a responsibility to pay it back.”

Kelley Greenman
College of Arts & Sciences, 2009

“It has been my dream to open a health clinic in India, my motherland, and this program has given me a prelude to my future career.”

Venu Reddy
Engineering, 2008

Gephardt Summer Service Stipends recipients Kelley Greenman and Venu Reddy utilized their awards to participate in the Village India Program. Kelley coaxed her students to write creatively, which was a new challenge for them. An environmental studies major, she also conducted research on global climate change and its effect on India’s water.

Venu’s students never failed to bring a smile to his face. The program made him confident that he can work in an international setting, and he aspires to open a public health clinic in India someday.
for undergraduates with an academic background in pre-medicine. In a summer 2008 pilot, student participants will stay with local families in Santiago, Chile, while receiving intensive language instruction and working at a service internship focusing on community health. When they return to campus in the fall, they will build upon that experience by implementing a group service project in the St. Louis community.

Following the pilot program in Chile, future programs will be planned based on service in the areas of energy and the environment and development. Rich with ideas, talents, and a willingness to work hard, the University community has much to offer beyond its borders, and stands to gain infinitely more in the process.

"Is it true that Washington U. students tend to live in a bubble? Yes, but a lot of them want to ‘pop’ the bubble."

**Glenn Stone**

*Professor of Anthropology, Arts & Sciences*

Professor Glenn Stone has conducted research in rural Andhra Pradesh, India, for years, and sensed that his students could be part of a greater opportunity there. Stone’s Village India Program makes a unique contribution to local Indian students’ education, teaching new subjects and providing invaluable intensive English training. Their mentorship not only makes a positive impact on a local community, but also deepens their commitment to global issues affecting us all.