

**KENYA**

**MAY 20, 2024 - JUNE 9, 2024**

# **ASEC SERVICE LEARNING**

## **Evaluation Report**



**PREPARED FOR: AFRICAN SISTERS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

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# Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Monitoring & Evaluation Unit within the African Sisters Education Collaborative at Marywood University.

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**On the Cover:** 2024 Service Learning participants with HESA students, ASEC Country staff and others at Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya.

To request a full copy of any of ASEC's evaluation reports, please contact [research@asec-sldi.org](mailto:research@asec-sldi.org).



# ASEC Service Learning Program

Program Evaluation Key Outcomes (September 2024)



## 5 OBJECTIVES



Provide US students, sisters, and mentors with authentic **cultural immersion** experiences.



Enhance participating students' **academic course content** as it relates to globalization and the service learning experience.



Diversify participating students' **career perspectives and prospects**.



Enhance **cross-cultural awareness, mutual respect, networking, and relationship building**.



Provide an opportunity to experience **service with a spirituality foundation**.

## KEY OUTCOME FIGURES

8

Service Trips Completed

140

Unique Individuals Served

5

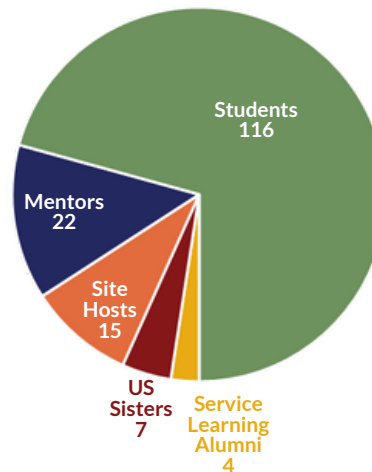
ASEC Corporate Member Institutions

**Countries:**  
4 Tanzania  
2 Ghana  
2 Kenya

**Participants in 2024:**  
3 Faculty Mentors  
9 Students

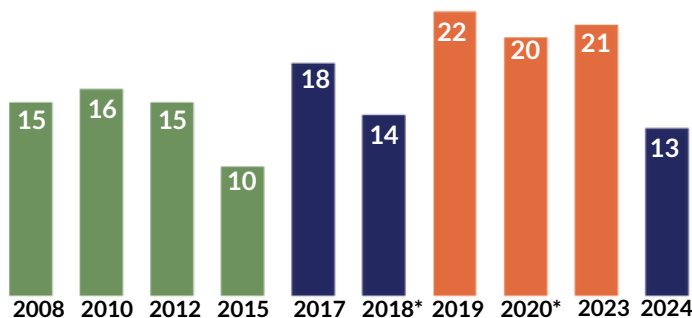
**Serving:**  
19 Host Sites  
Across 3 Countries

## PROGRAM ROLES



Since 2008, the largest group of Service Learning participants are **students** from ASEC corporate member institutions.

Since 2008, **140** individuals have participated in ASEC's Service Learning Program a total of **164** times. Traveling to **Tanzania**, **Kenya**, and **Ghana**.

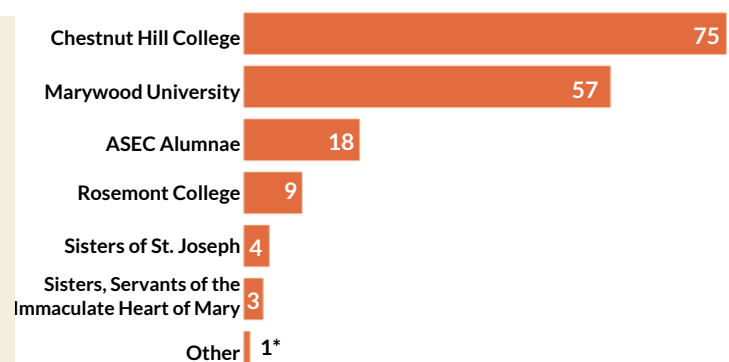


\*Trips in 2018 & 2020 were cancelled due to safety concerns.

Accounting for all program roles and enrollments since 2008, Service Learning participants represent **7** institutions.

In 2024, service was performed at **six sites** in Kenya:

- Dorothea Rescue Center
- Dorothea Health Center
- Our Lady of Assumption Mission School
- St. Martin's School Kibagare
- Cottolengo Children Center
- Langata Women's Prison



\*1 participant was not affiliated with any institution.

# ASEC Service Learning Program

## 2024 Executive Summary



ASEC Service Learning opportunities are intended to broaden the cultural perspectives and enrich the lives of those who serve and those who are served. Participants engage in a mutual cultural exchange, deepening their understanding and appreciation of a different culture. Service Learning furthers ASEC's mission by engaging ASEC alumnae as Service Learning site hosts, providing the alumnae and participants the opportunity to build relationships and enhance the ministries at the service sites.

2024 Service Learning Objectives included:

- Provide participating U.S. students, sisters, and mentors with authentic cultural immersion experiences;
- Enhance participating students' academic course content as it relates to globalization and the service learning experience;
- Diversify participating students' career perspectives and prospects;
- Enhance cross-cultural, mutual respect, networking, and relationship building;
- Provide an opportunity to experience service with a spirituality foundation.

The 2024 Service Learning program **exceeded majority of all the projected evaluation outputs and outcome levels** except for four—two related to formal group reflection preparation and completion, one related to academic course satisfaction and one related to participant engagement from other corporate member institutions. In 2024, six participants, three mentors, and three site hosts completed the post-trip survey.

The Service Learning Trip was widely successful with **increases** in many key areas including **knowledge about ASEC and Kenya, personal growth, cross-cultural growth, and reverence for citizens of Kenya**. Despite major success, several challenges surfaced this year—inadequate preparation, new staff, ineffective time management, and difference of opinions within the group. Adjustments are being made to assist in increasing Service Learning output and outcome results in 2025.

## 2024 SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM



**2024  
Service Learning  
Participants**  
3 Faculty/Mentors  
9 Students

There has always been a struggle for Black people in America and then there is a different struggle for some natives in Kenya. I have **more gratitude** for my life and have found a **new pride** in being a Black American. I'm not exactly African and not exactly American. I am African American and that's okay. **I have found peace with that and am no longer struggling to find my identity.**

-2024 Service Learning Participant

## 2024 TRIP SUCCESSES

**100%** (N = 6) reported being knowledgeable of ASEC at the close of the program.

**100%** (N = 6) indicated that the Service Learning Trip increased their reverence for citizens of the host country.

**100%** (N = 3) Site Hosts agreed that they increased their knowledge of the American culture.

**88%** (N = 6) reported developing a professional relationship with an individual from another college/university or congregation

**83%** (N = 6) reported that participation in the program deepened their capacity to engage in reflection.



# ASEC Service Learning Program

## 2024 Executive Summary Cont'd



Since 2008, a total of 140 unique individuals have participated in ASEC's Service Learning program. Of these participants, 24 have participated in the program more than once, making the total number of enrollments 164. A total of ten service learning trips have been organized by ASEC to three countries (Tanzania, Kenya, and Ghana), with two trips canceled (2018 and 2020) for safety concerns. Due to these cancellations and other personal issues, 36 of the 164 total enrollments were withdrawn prior to trip completion, accounting for a 78% Service Learning completion rate.

In 2024, 12 individuals completed the ASEC Service Learning program: 3 faculty/mentors (one from Marywood University and two from Chestnut Hill College), and 9 students (7 from Chestnut Hill College and 2 from Marywood University). One Chestnut Hill College student withdrew prior to trip completion. As part of the program, students completed a three-credit academic course in Spring 2024 at their respective college/university.

## ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

### Practicing Teaching Techniques in Kenya

Isabella Schmeltzer

**Attending Institution:** Chestnut Hill College

**Degree Earning:** Bachelor of Science in Early Education

**Year of Service Learning Completion:** 2024, Junior

Isabella participated in the 2024 Trip as a Junior at Chestnut Hill College. Being an Education major, she had plenty of opportunities to connect her field of study to the experiences during this trip. She was able to observe classes, different teaching methods, and teach a few Mathematics and English classes.

Isabella also had an enlightening experience about religion and Catholic sisters in Africa. People's relationship with religion was very different than compared to her experience, she said that in Kenya, "the sisters, people, even children are so in touch with their religion. They love God. They love going to church and their church services. It's just very joyous. And you can sense that from the sisters."



## 2024 SERVICE LEARNING SURVEY RESULTS

### Cross-Cultural Awareness & Relationships

Shared information about their culture with people in Kenya

100%

Learned from the people they served

100%

Felt respect for the citizens of Kenya they served

100%

Increased their knowledge & understanding of a foreign culture

100%

Felt the trip increased their reverence for citizens of Kenya

100%

### Career Perspectives & Prospects

Felt participation in the Service Learning Program is relevant to their future

100%

Provided service that enhanced their professional skills

100%

Improved their prospects of attaining a job

100%

Developed professional relationships

87%

### Knowledge of Host Country

Increased knowledge about Kenya

100%

Service provided helped understand course materials about Kenya

87%

Course enhanced my Service Learning Experience

67%

Course helped prepare me for the Trip

67%