

GHANA

MAY 23, 2023 - JUNE 10, 2023

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: 2023 Service Learning participants with students from Ghana.

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ASEC Service Learning Program

Program Evaluation Key Outcomes (September 2023)



5 OBJECTIVES



Provide US students, faculty, and sisters with authentic situations for **cultural immersion**.



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



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

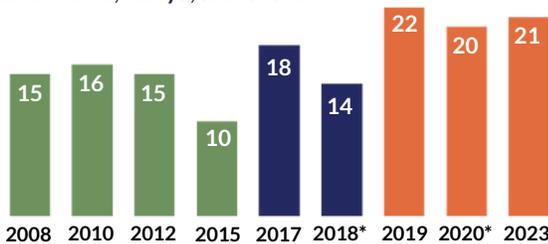


Enhance **cross-cultural awareness, mutual respect, networking, and relationship building**.



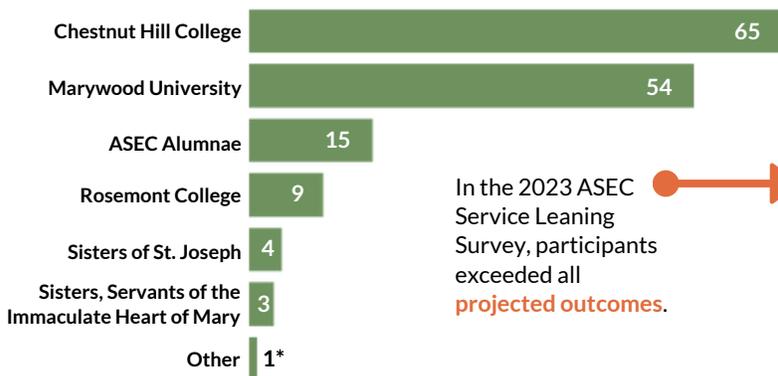
Provide an opportunity to experience **service with a spirituality foundation**.

Since 2008, **128** individuals have participated in ASEC's Service Learning Program a total of **151** times. Traveling to **Tanzania, Kenya, and Ghana**.



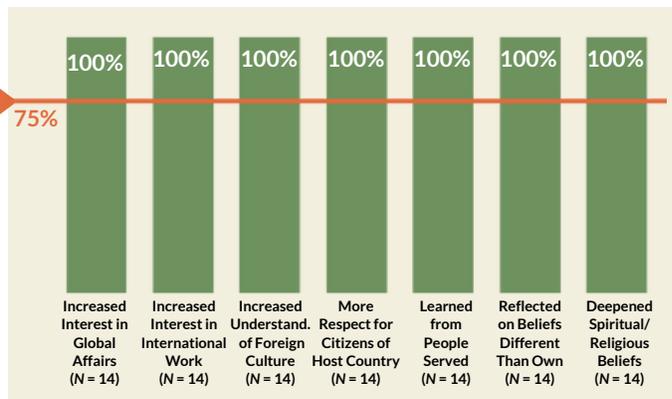
*Trips in 2018 & 2020 were cancelled due to safety concerns.

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



*1 participant was not affiliated with any institution.

In the 2023 ASEC Service Learning Survey, participants exceeded all **projected outcomes**.



KEY OUTCOME FIGURES

7
Service Trips Completed

Countries:
4 Tanzania
2 Ghana
1 Kenya

128
Individuals Served

Participants in 2023:
3 Faculty Mentors
3 Catholic Sisters
15 Students

5
ASEC Corporate Member Institutions Serving:
15 Host Sites Across 3 Countries

COURSE + TRIP SUCCESSES

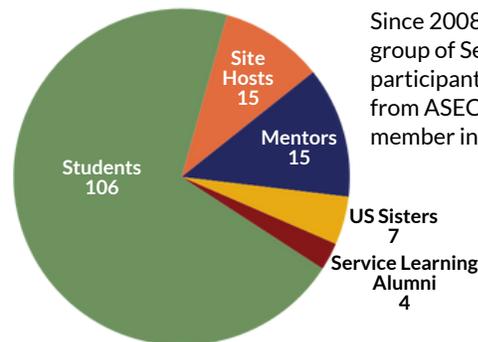
100% (N = 14) agreed that the Service Learning Course helped prepare them for the Service Learning Trip.

100% (N = 14) agreed that personal reflections increased their understanding of a different culture.

86% (N = 14) reported being knowledgeable of ASEC at the close of the program.

86% (N = 14) reported feeling knowledgeable of the the host country at the close of the program.

PROGRAM ROLES



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

ASEC Service Learning Program

2023 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.

2023 Service Learning Objectives included:

- Provide participating U.S. students, faculty, and sisters with authentic situations for cultural immersion;
- 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 Service Learning program was reestablished in 2023 after a three year pause due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. The 2023 Service Learning program to **exceeded the majority of all projected outputs and outcome levels**, however there were seven outcomes that could not be assessed due to an inadequate survey response rate from site hosts and mentors.

New ASEC staffing, issues with daily group reflections, miscommunication, and clear expectations of service activities were cited as the major challenges associated with the program. Despite these challenges, the Service Learning program was widely successful in many key areas including **increased knowledge about ASEC and Ghana, increased personal growth, increased understanding of foreign culture, and increased international interest**. Adjustments are being made to assist in increasing Service Learning output and outcome results in 2024.

2023 SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

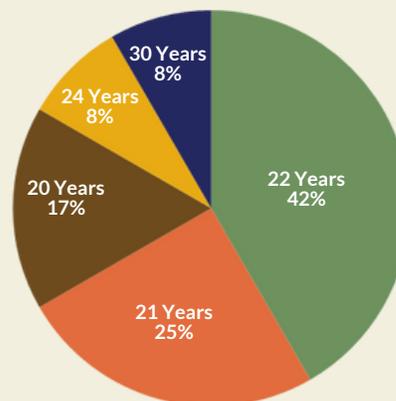


2023 Service Learning Participants
3 Faculty/Mentors
3 Catholic Sisters
15 Students

The kids that I was serving fell in love with basketball even more as I was teaching them. I felt great teaching them about sports and life difficulties. **The kids in Ghana are very smart and I had a great time getting to know them.**

-2023 Service Learning Participant

2023 Service Learning students ranged in age from 20-30 years, with the majority being **22 years old** (42%, N = 12).



Undergraduates

2 Freshmen
3 Juniors
3 Seniors

Postgraduates

2 Bachelors
1 Masters
2 Doctors

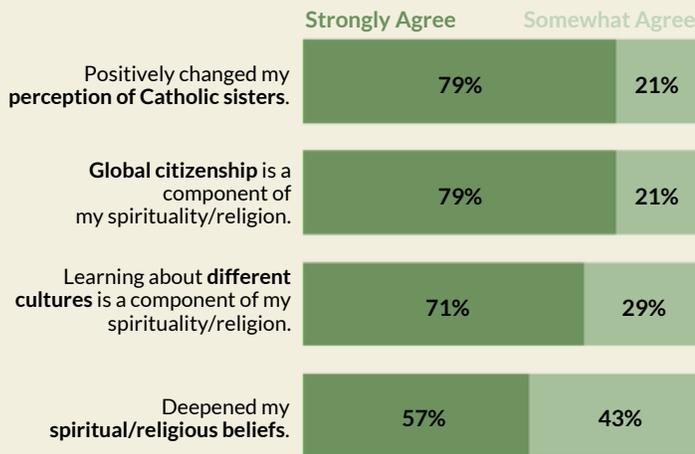
In 2023, service was performed at **four sites** in Ghana:

- Infant Jesus Catholic Preparatory School
- St. Elizabeth, Padre Pio Rehabilitation Center
- Mary Queen of Peace School
- Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child Jesus



2023 SERVICE LEARNING SURVEY RESULTS

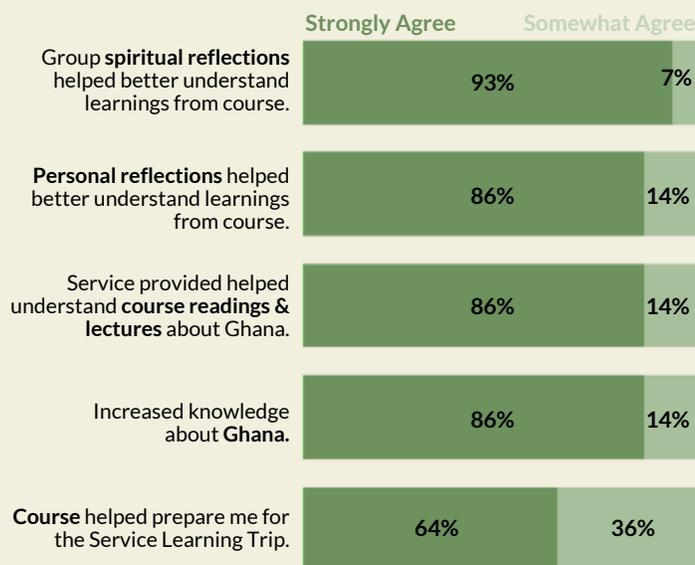
Spirituality/Religion



Global Awareness



Knowledge of Host Country



Since 2008, a total of 128 unique individuals have participated in ASEC's Service Learning program. Of these participants, 21 have participated in the program more than once, making the total number of enrollments 151. A total of nine 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, 35 of the 151 total enrollments were withdrawn prior to trip completion, accounting for a 77% Service Learning completion rate.

In 2023, 21 individuals participated in the ASEC Service Learning program: 3 faculty/mentors, 3 Catholic sisters (2 members of the Sisters of St. Joseph and 1 member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary), and 15 students (11 from Chestnut Hill College and 5 from Marywood University). One mentor from Chestnut Hill College withdrew from the program prior to trip completion. As part of the program, students completed a three-credit Service Learning academic course in Spring 2023 at their respective college/university.

Practicing Music Therapy Skills in Ghana

D'Ambra Galvin, Marywood University Senior

Attending Institution: Marywood University
Degree Earning: Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy
Year of Service Learning Completion: 2023, Senior

D'Ambra Galvin participated in the ASEC Service Learning Program in 2023 as a Senior at Marywood University. During her time in Ghana, Ms. Galvin was able to gain hands-on experience practicing the skills she has learned in her academic program.

Marywood University believes that "the power of music can remove physical, verbal, and emotional barriers. Music Therapy can truly transform the health and wellness of patients who find new avenues of expression through music." This aligns with Ms. Galvin's experience in Ghana, where she was able to bring her guitar and connect cross-culturally with the children at the service sites. Ms.



Galvin reports that participation in the program was invaluable to her academic and professional development.

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT