



A New Kind of Philanthropy

The Global Sojourns Giving Circle

The Challenge:

Clients often ask how they can help to improve the lives of the impoverished people they see during their travels in Africa. Recognizing the need of clients who want to help and to know that their funds are used effectively and the need of the people and communities in areas where they have traveled, Global Sojourns committed to setting up a program to meet the needs of both.

The Solution:

We created a “giving circle”. Clients are able to become members with an annual donation. Through a fiscal agent, we contribute to projects in Africa where a small amount of money can make a significant difference. The giving circle model also creates the opportunity to increase members’ understanding of cultural, socio-economic and development issues and encourages visitation of the projects to see the difference the GS Giving Circle grants have made.

The Global Sojourns Giving Circle Model:

By creating a circle of people who pool their resources, they work together in the process of making international grants and vetting small, well managed, transparent, non-profit organizations already on the ground in Africa.

In addition, the educational aspect of the circle is to further the group’s knowledge about best practices in international philanthropy and grant making as well as the specific issues of the projects they support. In essence, they are breaking down immense global challenges into more manageable pieces and creating a dynamic community that is directly connected to the issues they wish to support. Some key characteristics of our giving circle include:

- Annual membership \$365-\$2,000+
- 4+ conference calls/year, quarterly newsletter
- Member trips to visit projects
- Vetting committee to find existing projects that are making a difference, members vote on selection
- Misc. activities: study group, presentations, fundraisers

The Global Sojourns Giving Circle Mission:

The Giving Circle is a community of individuals who pool their time, talent and financial resources in order to make grants that support sustainable grassroots projects which improve the lives of children and conserve wildlife in sub-Saharan Africa. The Giving Circle seeks to develop close and direct connections with those projects and increase members’ knowledge of the issues and best practices of international philanthropy.