

AIMS SERVICE

LEARNING 2015-16

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS





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THE SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Service learning is an educational experience where participants contribute their time and services to their community and make a positive impact on their neighborhood, their city, their country, or the world we share. At AISM, we work together with local partners to renovate buildings, paint walls, build furniture, and provide equipment, while our students and partners teach and learn from each other. Our aim is to cultivate a culture of service in our students and communities as we also strive to build meaningful and sustainable partnerships with the partners we work with.

Service Learning has been a component of our school life for a number of years. With the emergence of the schools' guiding values – ethical living, engaged learning and excellence – the opportunities delivered by our Service Learning program became crucial experiences for a holistic development of our students.

Our community partners' portfolio includes 20+ organizations and projects. Five of these include construction of new classrooms in public/community schools. For example, by building two new rooms in Polana Caniço community school, the school is able to offer two additional grades, allowing students to finish the complete primary education program and adding another 300 students to the enrolment list. Our annual interventions directly impact on more than 3,000 Mozambican youngsters, as well as educators from amongst our partner groups and our own AISM students, staff and parent volunteers.

Be part of these success stories. We have open doors to new ideas, approaches and opportunities.

POLANA CANIÇO COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Rua do Golfe, 1111 – Polana Caniço B
Maputo

Polana Caniço Community School is part of the Mozambican education network and provides schooling for students in grades 1-5. As a community school, it does not receive any financial help from the government beyond training for teachers and administrators. Families of children who attend this school pay token fees (MT 200 a month), which is put toward employing teachers. Its governance is guided by a school council that consists of parents, school staff, community members and authorities.

Established in 1995 at the initiative of the neighboring community, this community school received land from the municipality and authorization from the Ministry of Education. Currently, the school serves a total of 550 students in three shifts, including an adult education class, attended mostly by women. Our partnership is now focused on connecting the school to the electric and water systems. Our English classes continue, as well as the interaction activities between AISM and Polana Caniço students. We also plan on providing the school with additional materials and cleaning supplies to improve the learning environment of the students.



RAINHA DA PAZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Rua Carlos Cardoso, 409 – Polana Caniço A
Maputo

Founded in 1999, Rainha da Paz is another community school that receives scant government funding. The school is architecturally sound with three well-built classrooms and an administration block. The school serves a student body of 225 students from grades 1 to 7. Ten teachers, plus 5 non-teaching staff operate the school. It has become a reference school in the district for their renowned quality in education.

One of the objectives of our partnership is to promote enhanced English instruction for their students. We also assist in improving the aesthetics of the school itself by painting interior and exterior walls and furniture. One of more ambitious ideas is to take advantage of a donated piano to share basic music knowledge between our students.





LIVRO ABERTO LITERACY ASSOCIATION

Av. Patrice Lumumba, 461 – Museu
Maputo

Livro Aberto ('Open Book') is a library and literacy organization founded here in 2007. It's goal is to develop a reading culture in Mozambique that inspires children to inquire, innovate and achieve through books and literacy. It promotes literacy for life-long empowerment and enjoyment.

AIMS visits Livro Aberto regularly in support of its literary and acting programs. We also prepare didactic material and lots of games, props and home-made books for these visits.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Av. Salvador Allende, 1451 – Bairro Central
Maputo

Founded in 1988, the School for the Deaf is part of the government's efforts to provide deaf or hearing disabled children with an education. The school serves over 100 students enrolled in Kindergarten to grade 7. After that, the students enter the conventional education system.

Our partnership includes interaction activities with students such as dancing, cooking, traditional games, sports, learning sign language and all sorts of arts and crafts. Our goal is to build two sanitary units for students as well as paint and set up an arts room.



DAMBO ASSOCIATION

Mafalala Neighborhood
Maputo

In the Mafalala neighborhood, AISM works with Dambo Association, which is led by students and professionals aiming to promote and improve sanitation; the environment; and the educational conditions of local schools in Mozambique. This association is imbued with a selfless spirit of volunteerism and the constant search for solutions to the problems that impoverished youth face in general.

Our work is involved in a small pre-school for underprivileged children, and our project is to build bathrooms and a kitchen for the pre-school to reopen.



ALL NATIONS HOME

Rua da Mesquita – Machava
Maputo

All Nations is a home for abandoned children of Mozambique. Each house is run by a family that accepts every new child as one of its own.

All of the children are brought in as infants and stay until they are prepared for their adult life. The houses are located in the middle of Mozambican communities, operating with 30-50 children living as a family. All Nations Mozambique employs a staff of local women to help care for the children. The women help each of the houses to function as a family by cooking, cleaning, laundry, educating, and all of the other needs necessary to manage for house full of children.

Our students engage in interactive activities with their children and also contribute to help build additional homes.



CANHOEIRO PROJECT

Polana Caniço Neighborhood
Maputo

Around a Canoeiro tree of this neighborhood there is a community with a strong commitment to Mozambican culture and arts. While learning about Mozambican realities, students interact with the community in activities related to nutrition, arts and crafts, and literacy. This project was initiated by one of our teachers who actually live around the Canhoeiro and has been doing similar activities for several years.



BOBOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bobole Neighborhood
Marracuene

Bobole Public Primary School is situated near the village of Marracuene. It serves more than 500 students in three classrooms, under trees, and caniço temporary classrooms. More than half of the children sit on the floor. The enthusiastic staff is eager to make things happen, significantly different than the usual local schools. We plan to assist in building three additional classrooms, allowing the school to expand its service to grades 5-7, completing the primary education for the students in that region.



MUSEOLOGY AND TOURISM

Museu da Moeda, Museu da Fortaleza and Museu do CFM – Baixa Maputo

Working under the supervision of the guardians of the three Museums, students will produce detailed content for the museums in English (brochures, signage, virtual tours, website among others) and also be prepared to act as tour guides in English for interested visitors. At present there is no regular service of English guides for all three museums.

Learning about the incredible richness of Mozambican culture and history, as well as interacting with Mozambican and foreign tourists who visit these museums, are central pieces of this service learning experience. It includes flash-lectures inside the museums and other city landmarks.



PROJECT LIBERTY HOME

Patrice Lumumba Neighborhood
Marracuene

On the initiative of single person, Jennifer Jestes, Project Liberty hosts approximately 35 children. The numbers have grown over the year and some of “her kids” are already married and in the work place. Many of them return “home” to visit and to help raise the new little ones. Project liberty is unique in that the kids live in a home as a family where everybody pitches in, completes chores and has fun together. Donations guarantee the sustainability of the home. As Project Liberty family expanded, it became necessary to obtain additional land to build a house and a school. Land was allocated for this purpose where the new house and garden are slowly starting to take shape.

Currently AISM students help to build facilities and a playground for the children to improve the play environment. We’ve installed a set of tire swings and a jungle gym around the trees. and plan to work with the older children to help build a wall around the property.

On service learning days we organize games and picnics and have fun together with the children. Part of our vision is to plant trees around the new property and to establish the vegetable garden so that the project can become more self-sustainable.



MUSIC IN THE MARKETPLACE

Maputo municipal markets and other service learning partners

Students will be challenged to play music in public places, specifically in the markets of Maputo (Janet, Mercado Central, Mercado do Povo and others) - with our service learning partners for a specific cause that students will define on the first day of service learning.



LAR MARIA MÃE PILAR ORPHANAGE

Laulane Neighborhood
Maputo

Our partnership with “Beata Maria Pilar Orphanage” links AISM students with 35 orphan girls, aged 5 to 17 through various activities such as cooking, sports, cleaning, English language practice and use of computers.

The orphanage was organized and founded by the Spanish Government and operates by a Spanish religious congregation. It provides the girls with a peaceful environment, food and room so that they can have meaningful access to public education, which would otherwise be difficult for them to access. In order to strengthen their knowledge and skills, the girls receive reinforcement classes in the afternoon at the orphanage when they are not attending regular school. AISM students and staff contribute to these classes in the areas of English and Computer skills.

Maria Mãe Pilar Orphanage offers a small group of Mozambican orphans the possibility of a good education and the means to break the cycle of poverty.



AMIZADE SEM FRONTEIRAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Polana Caniço Neighborhood
Maputo

Serving 250 students and assisted by seven adult teachers, this community school is located only a 10 minute walk from AISM. Started in 1989 by a group of young people, this school has received some financial support in the past, but today relies on the 100 Mt tuition fee per month per student to sustain itself.

AISM partners with Amizade Sem Fronteiras to work on the school's structure, as well assist in some ways with the academic program.



NEWS ROOM AND FILM STUDIES

All activities under the OpenDoors program are registered and broadcasted by our student team of reporters and film makers.

Results from these activities are posted on our school YouTube channel:

Our students are always excited to explore and learn about activities in the service learning program. Their main objective is to portray in detail what truly goes on in the service learning experiences and capture multiple perspectives from both AISM students and our partners.



JEWEL OF THE INDICO - IKUBASA JEWELRY MAKING

AIMS campus and Costa do Sol beach
Maputo

This new endeavor calls for volunteers with fine-motor skills, patience, an aesthetic eye that appreciates the beauty and potential in small things, and the willingness to occasionally work outside of the prescribed service learning days. It is also a chance to support our own AIMS service learning program by making jewelry pieces and marketing them to raise funds and awareness. On service learning days, we will join the IKUBASA Service Learning project on its beach collections with the specific goal of looking for glass and other interesting items to reclaim to be designed, created, and marketed to the public, while communicating the importance of recycling in our over-flowing world.



IKUBASA – REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Costa do Sol Beach – Costa do Sol
Maputo

iKubasa aims to clean up the local environment through physical engagement and by spreading the idea among other Maputo schools. Our beach clean-ups are used as an opportunity to engage with the local community and it is becoming increasingly common for casual visitors to the beach to join us in the litter cleanup. A further aim of iKubasa is to provide and install dustbins on local beaches and to spread the message of clean it up by visiting local schools and telling other students about our project.

We hope that more local schools will initiate their own iKubasa projects.

iKubasa also works to embed a recycling culture at AISM through the introduction of reusable water bottles and paper and aluminum recycling projects within the school.



BIOBLITZ

Maputo, Marracuene, Inhaca Island

Bioblitz is a unique service learning project that has its roots in citizen science, which is taking the biological world by storm, i.e. Blitz. We record the vital distributions and sometimes behaviors of not-known and well-known species.

The data is uploaded to the animal demographic unit of University of Cape Town (www.adu.org.za) and contributes toward building an up to date record of sub-Saharan fauna, so that we can make informed decisions about where to focus conservation efforts. Our students are recording a snapshot of the present to help conserve wildlife for the future. While doing it, they learn to love, appreciate and identify with their special Mozambican home.”



WE ARE THE TREES

AISM campus and several locations in Maputo

This project aims to repopulate Maputo with its indigenous tree species, from seed to tree. In partnership with Maputo municipality and supervised by the gardens and parks administration, students study the best areas to replant trees such as Acacias. Meanwhile, they learn basic concepts of organic and forestry farming.



CERCI ASSOCIATION

Bairro Central, Maputo

Operating since 2002, this association provides education for mentally challenged children. With a strong educational team, the association is now under expansion and will soon move to -its purposely-built headquarters. Students will have a chance to interact and better understand mentally challenged people while bringing happiness and fresh ideas to their routine.

COMMUNITY THEATER

AlISM campus and other service learning partners , Maputo

Students and participants of Thlanganisa Community Arts Festival perform together at our service learning partners.





BE PART OF THE IMPACT

AIMS's Service Learning Program brings invaluable educational experiences for our students and positively impacts the community around us. Our program has open doors to new ideas, opportunities and approaches. You can contribute by:

- sharing your time, volunteering on service learning days;
- sharing your ideas, advising or suggesting new projects;
- sharing your resources, supplying some or all of the various needs of these projects.

Your contribution is much appreciated!

The American International School of Mozambique provides a learning environment that inspires students to cultivate their unique talents and perspectives, preparing them to contribute in purposeful ways to the world that they will inherit and shape. Our students enjoy a stimulating and balanced educational program that is rooted in the principles of excellence, ethics and engagement. Strengthening the connections to Mozambique through our curriculum, engaging our students in age-appropriate, action-oriented projects, raising our students awareness of significant social issues and problems, and involving community members and community-based organizations in our Service Learning program is a priority for the AISM community.

The Service Learning Program is proudly supported by:

