

Living On the Other Side...

An experiential program on global hunger and poverty

Dear Leaders/Participants:

We are excited about your interest in our program on global hunger and poverty, “Living On the Other Side.” Part of World Hunger Relief’s mission is education, and we feel that educating others about hunger is essential to our work. This retreat is designed to be educational, inspiring, and also challenging – it can be a profound experience both for your group and for us. We hope that your group comes ready to hear and experience things that will open your eyes to the reality of our neighbors in developing countries and the many ways that our lives are connected to theirs.

Enclosed in this packet you will find a registration form to be completed by all participants (including leaders). Other materials are included to help you anticipate the details of the program, prepare you for your time at World Hunger Relief and ways to involve your church community in their experience. Please let us know how we can help you plan for your visit, and feel free to call with any questions or special needs. We will be happy to work with you within the goals and objectives of what we hope the experience will be.

Peace and Grace,

Matt Hess, Education Director

World Hunger Relief?

World Hunger Relief, Inc (WHRI) is a Christian organization committed to the alleviation of hunger around the world. God calls us to:

- **Train** individuals in holistic ministry that equips them to work with communities in developing sustainable farming techniques
- **Educate** those with an economic abundance on methods of conserving and sharing resources
- **Participate** in local and international sustainable development programs

Our philosophy is to live simply, helping those who struggle to meet their basic needs by sharing and investing in others what God has given us.

WHRI was organized and chartered in Texas as a non-profit organization in 1976. The charter provided for a program in agro-forestry and related technologies to address the needs of the hungry, both foreign and domestic. Carl Ryther joined World Hunger Relief in 1979 having returned to Texas with his family after 17 years of agricultural missions in Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan). During those years Ryther had developed simple food production systems to meet the needs of poor and starving people. The Bangladesh system was expanded to accommodate additional technology and to address different environments and cultures. Ryther completed a training manual in several languages, using his own “Backyard Food Production System” as the fundamental program for survival among the poorest of the poor. Environmental recovery processes and appropriate technologies were incorporated into the training to provide for a reasonably complete development system.

Since that time, more than 300 interns have trained at the WHRI headquarters and have returned to work in over 20 countries. The WHRI headquarters, along with the demonstration and training center for the United States, is located near Waco, Texas. The farm, situated on 42 acres, encompasses a dormitory, a visitor education building, animal and equipment sheds, two acres of intensive vegetable production, a goat dairy, and 20 acres of improved pasture. WHRI also supports a 22-acre training center in northeastern Haiti, which includes a school and a farm. WHRI still hosts interns wishing to learn more about sustainable farming and development. In addition to education in sustainable agriculture, the interns manage a fifty-member food club, in which members receive fresh vegetables weekly. The farm also offers produce, eggs and goat milk, which is available for the community. WHRI provides innovative educational and volunteer opportunities for schools, and for church and community groups.

Living On the Other Side

Example Schedule

FRIDAY

5:30 PM.....ARRIVAL

INTRODUCTION / WELCOME

Introduction to the World Hunger Farm: Who are we, why we exist, what we do

HUNGER BANQUET

I. Thinking

What if the world shared a meal together?

II. Discussion 1– WHAT IS HUNGER?

A. Define Hunger and other terms

B. Present statistics

9:00 PM..... MOVIE: BLACK GOLD

The connections between hunger, poverty and the way we spend our money.

SATURDAY

6:30 AM.....MORNING CHORES

8:00 AM.....13-CENT BREAKFAST

8:45 AM.....DEBRIEF/DISCUSS

9:30 AM..... FARM TOUR

I. Thinking

We want the group to think about what they are hearing, seeing, and learning here. They can be critical, but only if it is as a response to it being different than what they know. If they are going to be critical, they must look critically at what is “normal” to them too.

10:30 AM.....WORK PROJECTS

12:00 PM.....LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM.....INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION TIME

1:30 PM.....BEGIN SUPPER PREPARATION

5:00 PM.....DEBRIEF

5:30 PM.....CLEANUP

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What to do before you come...

- Please allow your group members to only bring one small bag or backpack. We want this to be a fun time for your group, but also one of learning, growth, challenge, and simplicity. Making choices about what you really “need” for the weekend is a small way to begin that journey.
- As a group, read over the “Hunger Facts” on Bread for the Worlds Website:
<http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-basics/hunger-facts-international.html>
<http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-basics/hunger-facts-domestic.html>
and write down any questions, ideas, or comments that you want to explore further during your time at WHRI.

Please have your kids bring...

- Sleeping bag, sheets, and / or other sleeping materials needed (such as a pillow or foam mattress).
- One change of clothes – something you don’t mind getting dirty!
- Bible, Pen and paper
- Completed registration and sponsorship forms

World Hunger Relief will...

- Provide food
- Provide a place to sleep
- Provide leaders for directing discussions, etc.
- Plan activities
- Plan and provide Videos/Films
- Plan and lead discussions, and Bible Studies
- Plan work projects and provide materials needed

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Participant Registration:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Group Name: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone #: _____

RESPONSIBILITY RELEASE:

As a participant of the "Living on the Other Side" program, I wish to make clear my understanding that World Hunger Relief, Inc., P.O. Box 639, Elm Mott, Texas 76640, does not assume any responsibility for loss of property, damage to the same, personal harm or illness that may occur; and I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, distributes, and assigns, in considerations, do hereby absolve World Hunger Relief, Inc. and hold them harmless from any claim of demand which I or they might conceivably assert upon the basis of the foregoing.

Signature of participant if over 18 years of age:

_____ Date: _____

Signature of parent or guardian if participant is under 18 years of age

_____ Date: _____