CHURCH MOBILIZATION
WHO WE ARE

AND

WHAT WE DO
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Food for the Hungry (FH) seeks to end ALL forms of human poverty by going into the hard places and closely walking with the world’s most vulnerable people. We have been serving through purposeful relief and development for over four decades. We believe in the fight against poverty, which is why we serve the vulnerable in over 20 countries globally. We’re moved and inspired by our Christian belief that every person has intrinsic value and that it’s our responsibility to advocate for the poor and marginalized.

We’re proud of the communities we enter, but more than that, we’re proud of the ones we exit. These are the communities where extreme poverty no longer has a seat at the table. They’re self-sustaining and living out God’s purpose for their lives. We celebrate with them and then we intentionally seek out the next community suffering under the heavy weight of poverty.

We were created for this work.

WHAT WE DO

We provide life-changing resources such as clean water, medical aid, food, equal educational opportunities for girls and boys, vocational training, and empowerment in the midst of unimaginable hardships. Our view of poverty is holistic and complex. We honor the people we serve by inviting them to contribute to the process. We are grateful to be invited into the communities we serve and work side-by-side with local leaders, churches, and governments in responding to their needs with transformative solutions.

**FH is also a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).
We believe that through collaboration, we can do more to move in the lives of the vulnerable. Combining your church’s heart for the poor and FH’s global experience, Churches all over the country are actively helping us end poverty.

**We connect your church to one community in the developing world that is suffering under the heavy weight of poverty.**

You’ll be able to intentionally walk with a vulnerable community, helping them to overcome physical challenges, strengthen their own local churches, and restore hope.

Through our church partnerships, mutual transformation is possible in impoverished communities and your church congregation alike.
HERE ARE THE WAYS YOUR CHURCH PARTNERSHIP CONNECTS YOU TO AN FH COMMUNITY
**SERVE:**
Your church can participate in short-term trips to visit your partner community. This is an incredible opportunity to meet the children that the families in your church sponsor. You’ll also work with community leaders to plan and execute a project that will benefit the community long-term, such as building a water system. Your presence also serves as encouragement to the community. Putting your arms around the members and praying over them reminds the community that they have friends and partners in another part of the world who care for them.

**GIVE:**
Your church can also come together to fund a major project in the community, helping them overcome some of their biggest challenges. This is a powerful way for your church to personally witness the impact that your giving has on a community over time.

Families in your church will also be connected to a child that they sponsor through your partnership with FH. Their monthly commitment serves ongoing community projects and FH programs that empower vulnerable people to rise out of poverty. Sponsorship also creates deep and personal connections between families in your congregation and families in the partner community.

**CONNECT:**
Since your congregation commits to a partnership with a community, you become invested in long-term relationships. You’re no longer an outsider, but rather a friend. You have the chance to provide much needed encouragement to those in your partner community through letters, prayers, and even in-person visits. We believe that the church plays a vital role in the community’s restoration. Connection to another body of believers can amplify the community’s progress and spiritual development. Your church’s investment into the community is a crucial part of helping them hope for the future.
Cornerstone Community Church in Powell, Wyoming has been partnering with FH to serve the community of Sierra Prieta in the Dominican Republic for almost 10 years. FH spoke to Greg Wilson, who has led a team to Sierra Prieta for the last eight years.

**Why did you originally want to explore church partnerships with FH?**
We were a fairly new church plant and as the church started to mature, we wanted to have mission involvement. But we didn’t just want to draw names out of a hat and partner with someone who was probably doing good work. We wanted it to be more personal and to view missions as a core to the vision of our church, not just a small part of it. We were attracted to FH’s concept of going to the hard places.

**What was the community like when you first visited?**
The health of the community is the most noticeable thing. Before, there was no organized system for potable water. Families just collected rainwater and most considered clean water unnecessary. Diarrhea and other diseases were just a normal part of life. Kids were just skin and bones. I remember on our first trip there was a kid who was like 4 and there were others who were teasing him for being fat. He was by no means fat. He was healthy and normal looking to me, but he was the exception for sure. The education of the community wasn’t great either. There were only three classrooms and all the students had to share.
How are things different in the community 10 years later?
Now they have a well in the community, and they've installed a charcoal and sand filter system. The community manages and maintains it themselves. They have a committee and chairman that helps them stay organized, makes sure everyone pays their small fee, and that everyone is taken care of. I can see that has been a huge help in improving the nutrition of the children. Mothers teach their neighbors about feeding their children a balanced diet and the importance of protein and vegetables. Their whole concept of hope has changed. The education has greatly improved also. Children can’t go to school past 6th grade unless they have a birth certificate. Many didn’t have them and were having trouble getting them. FH staff worked tirelessly to help everyone get the right paperwork and documents. Before, parents would just shrug their shoulders and send their kids off to work in the fields. Now they’ve placed a higher value on education. There also are more classrooms and full-day classes for kindergarten through 9th grade.

Is there one story that stands out to you?
When we first visited the community, we met this little girl named Ella. Her mother was single with four other children. Within the first two years we were working in the community, we helped her mother repair their house. This house was infested and didn’t have any security at all. The walls were just sheets of metal stacked together and the door was rotted. This last trip, we saw Ella again and she’s about ready to graduate high school in September. This young girl is talking about going to a university in Santo Domingo. The growth and ownership and vision of the community is amazing to see. She would never have dreamed she could do that and now she’s making a plan. We were able to sit down with the community leaders and look back on the plans we made with them 10 years ago and say, “we accomplished all of these things.” It was an ah-ha moment for them to see that they can set a goal, create a vision, and make it happen.
How have you seen your church transform as well?
We’ve really seen people who were somewhat on the fringe in the church when we started, expand their involvement in the church in a personal and practical way. Now, their perspective on the mission of the church has changed dramatically. One family went from new believer to heavily involved in church leadership. It’s helped to develop the sense of the Body of Christ. The reality of understanding poverty changes the way you try to solve problems as a church. Throwing money at something isn’t going to solve it. Instead of showing up to do a VBS or a puppet show, we’re in a long-term relationship with this community that we know deeply.

What would you tell church leaders who are considering a partnership with FH?
Through this relationship, FH understands how to use short-term trips to create healthy outcomes. Everyone we work with at FH is a professional. Sometimes when trying to do missions work, you get the feeling that you’re just stuck with whoever was assigned to this for the week. But with FH, people are responding to a calling from God. That means that a ton of things you normally have to worry about as a church are just taken care of.

“Our FH partnership has reawakened our Church’s awareness and passion for missions. If you were to visit the homes of people from Faith Chapel, you would see hundreds of pictures on refrigerators of Guatemalan children. Through our partnership, we are connected in a beautiful way to the Mission of God and our friends in Guatemala.

Food for the Hungry understands the desperate cycle of poverty as well as any organization I have been exposed to. They understand what it takes to move a community away from cyclical poverty and into a new paradigm of revitalization, spiritual awakening and self-respect.”

Nate Poetzl
Lead Pastor, Faith Chapel
The challenge with any sort of short-term trip is to find a way to create a long-term impact in the lives of the people we are trying to reach with the love of God. The multi-year model allows for our church to send multiple teams over a number of years (10-year partnership) and still be able to build relationships with the FH staff and the community we are trying to reach.

I have found the FH staff to be knowledgeable with a holistic, Christ-centered approach to mission. FH’s comprehensive care for our teams and ongoing interaction in the community (even when we are not there) has made it easy for our entire church to identify, develop, and celebrate ongoing relationship with individuals as well as the community at large.”

Leland Rounds
Lead Pastor, New Hope Foursquare Church
Contact the Church Mobilization Team to get more information about Church Partnerships.

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