



## **Ambassador Information Packet**

Thank you so much for your interest in Hosea's Heart's Ambassadorship program! This program would be great for you if...

- You want to invest your time in a great non-profit!
- You want to become more involved in Hosea's Heart's mission
- You're excited about talking to others about Hosea's Heart
- You can travel to eSwatini for a short-term trip (highly recommended)
- You want to cultivate a long-term relationship with Hosea's Heart and Swaziland

This is not a good program for you if...

- You want to travel to eSwatini, but don't want to stay involved after the trip

### **About the Program**

Short-term mission trips have started receiving a bad reputation, and for good reasons! (Check out [this](#) Hosea's Heart blog from our director regarding short-term mission trips). We're not here to hash out the criticisms of short-term mission trips, but it'd be great if you did some of your own research before going to eSwatini. Short-term trips are a little different with Hosea's Heart because we want you to become a part of our team after your trip! While on the trip you will undoubtedly give of yourself and share Christ's love, but we don't want the experience to stop there. We believe short-term mission trips work best when they support a long-term mission. So, how can you support the long-term mission of Hosea's Heart?

### **Our Partnership**

Our ambassador program incorporates a unique partnership between each ambassador and Hosea's Heart. After returning home, we ask for continued involvement for at least 1 year afterwards by fulfilling at least 10 credits of supporting activities. Details on participation activities can be found at the end of this document.

## **Ambassador Recognition**

All ambassadors will be recognized at the annual celebration (typically takes place in the fall). Upon completing your year term as an ambassador you will receive a certificate in the mail and be featured on the blog stating the events you coordinated and the amount of credits you earned. Each ambassador earning 15+ credits will also receive a signed copy of Mary-Kate's book and free entry into Hosea's Heart events. Ambassadors earning 20+ credits will receive a signed copy of the book, free entry to events, and a gift from Tenele's Treasures.

## **Description of Trip**

A group of Hosea's Heart Ambassadors will be traveling to eSwatini, Africa to work with, serve with, and pray with members of the Hope for Life Home. The trip will be approximately two weeks and take place in January.

Participants will prepare for the culture and fundraise for the trip throughout the preceding months in the Fall and Winter. This is an immersion trip. To immerse is to "plunge into, or to absorb deeply." Those participating on this trip cannot but help to immerse themselves into the culture, language, lifestyle, social justice and spirituality of the people of Swazi and the Hope for Life Home. This unique cultural exchange is likely to affect those who participate, leaving them undoubtedly changed and more aware of themselves and their greater connection to the people of this

## **Fundraising**

Each individual is responsible for raising \$2,000 for the cost of the trip. A \$1,000 flight deposit will be submitted with paperwork upon acceptance for the trip. Two additional payments of \$500 will be made prior to the trip dates (see below for details). There are no organized group fundraising opportunities, unless initiated and facilitated by individual Ambassadors.

## **Commitment Guidelines**

By signing the Statement of Intent during the first meeting, all participants are expected to follow through with the financial commitment as well as the mandatory meeting preparations for the trip, with no exceptions.

## **FAQs**

### **Safety:**

There are basic safety guidelines that all participants are expected to follow, as would be expected for any foreigner traveling in a new country. Rules such as not walking alone at night, women traveling in groups or accompanied by male companions, and leaving all valuables at home in the states are examples. The political situation is stable and no civil safety concerns are present.

## **FAQs (cont.)**

### Language:

Although English is an official language of the country and taught in the schools, SiSwati, the native language, is dominant in the villages.

### Location and Swazi Facts:

Swaziland (or Kingdom of Eswatini), located in the southern tip of Africa, is one of the last remaining kingdoms in the world and is currently ruled by King Mswati III. Not much larger than the size of New Jersey, the total population is 1.2 million, with over 60% of people living on less than \$1.25 USD per day.

### Food/Water Safety:

The water must not be assumed safe to drink in all areas, and care must be taken to avoid unsanitary water sources. Following the general rules of thumb to "peel it" (in terms of eating produce) or "boil it" (with appropriate foods and all ingested water) will eliminate the vast majority of potential problems. Ambassadors will prepare most of their own meals as a team. Do avoid any roadside vendors, as they do not take precautions. Restaurants, however, are not a concern, and familiar foods such as seafood, chicken and pork are common entrees.

### Medical needs:

Immunizations will need to be checked with your doctor. Suggested vaccinations may include Hepatitis A (and B if you were not inoculated before), Typhoid, updated Tetanus, and optional Malaria pills and Diarrhea pills.

### Passport:

You must have a valid passport with a minimum of 6 months before expiration to travel to eSwatini. Applications for passports can be found on-line at [//travel.state.gov/passport/](https://travel.state.gov/passport/). It takes roughly 6 weeks to get your passport returned.

### Work Day:

A typical day will begin at 7:00 AM and ends around 4:00 PM. The evenings will include cleanup, dinner, prayer, group processing, devotions, and sometimes leisure time. Saturdays will be designated as a team building/travel day.

## FAQs (cont.)

### Money:

Your \$2,000 will cover meals, group transportation, housing, and airfare. Any additional money needed would be used for personal spending and souvenirs. Ambassadors have brought with them an extra \$250 and had no problem in budgeting. On days of rest and leisure (Saturdays), you are responsible for any additional costs for activities and some of your meals. Currency is the Rand. It is generally R10 for every \$1. Credit cards and ATM's are found in throughout town and easily accessible. Check with your bank for foreign transaction fees to decide upon an appropriate amount of cash to bring.

### Time:

eSwatini is on the South African Standard Time Zone, approximately 7 hours ahead of Central Standard Time Zone.

### Communication:

Allotted time will be scheduled for phone calls and internet access on Saturdays. Except in an emergency, communication back home is expected to be limited to scheduled times.

## General Timeline

***Please note:*** Dates and Locations are subject to change.

Date	Event	Location
Sept. 15	Applications Open	Online
Nov. 25	Flight deposit of \$1,000 Due	Mail/Online
Nov. 25	Paperwork Due	Mail/Online
Dec. 10	\$500 payment due	Mail/Online
Dec. 25	\$500 payment due	Mail/Online
Dec. (TBA)	Information Meeting	Online
Dec. 30	Departure for Swaziland	Chicago, IL
Jan. 14	Return to US	Chicago, IL
Jan. 15	Ambassador Debrief	Chicago, IL

## Ambassador Credit Opportunities

Each year ambassadors must fulfill least **10** credits after returning from the trip. Below is a chart of possible ideas and an approximation of the number of credits they fulfill. Feel free to contact us with additional ideas. We welcome your creativity and want to use your unique talents and skills!

Social media sharing	<b>3</b>	Attend Hosea's Heart event	<b>1</b>
Write a blog	<b>3</b>	Run a freedom week brat stand	<b>4</b>
Give a presentation to a group	<b>4</b>	Take/edit photos for Hosea's Heart	<b>5</b>
Sell Tenele's Treasures	<b>4</b>	Make a high-quality video	<b>5</b>
Organize a fundraiser/outreach event	<b>6</b>	Host Mary-Kate to speak	<b>7</b>
Host Valentine's Dance/Event	<b>6</b>	Participate in Dream for a Dream Campaign	<b>7</b>
Organize a prayer night	<b>5</b>	Reverse support letter	<b>8</b>
Support an intern	<b>5</b>	Graphic Design Work	<b>4</b>

### Supporting Activity Descriptions

#### *Social Media Sharing*

Hosea's Heart has a closed Facebook group of supporters. Hosea's Heart posts in this group when an event, photo, video, or post is released that we specifically want to push. The people in this group agree to link, comment, and share this post so it reaches more people. It'd be great if you liked and commented on every post, however, there are specific posts we ask supporters to engage with because they are more important. This happens approximately once per month. We can also provide .jpgs for you to share on Instagram, Snapchat, or other platforms that reach your network.

#### *Attend a Hosea's Heart Event*

Hosea's Heart has several events throughout the year and your fellow ambassadors will also be hosting events. Each time you attend an event you will receive one credit. You can also receive credits for helping out at events. The number of credits will be decided by the size of the event and the capacity in which you volunteered. It would most likely fall between 2-4 credits.

#### *Write a Blog*

Hosea's Heart maintains a blog on our website. We would like for blogs to be around 1,000 words; however, this is flexible. We also accept poems, which can be shorter. Blogs do not have to be about your trip, in fact, it is great if you can come up with other topics to write about. You can write multiple blogs per year, as long as they are high quality and spaced out during your year as an ambassador.

## **Supporting Activity Descriptions (cont.)**

### *Run a Freedom Week Brat Stand*

The week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is Freedom Week. This week is about celebrating our own freedom while remembering those who do not have the same luxuries. Grocery stores, like Festival, often have brat stands during the summer for groups to fundraise. This is an easy fundraiser because all you have to do is show up and serve brats! Let us know when and where you plan on selling so we can help promote.

### *Give a Presentation to a Group*

If you have a Bible study, small group, or class this is a great opportunity to let them know about your experience, eSwatini, and Hosea's Heart. In order to count for credit your presentation must be at least 10 minutes long and in front of 10 people. This is not necessarily a fundraiser so there does not have to be an offering, but it is always great when donation information is included in the presentation.

### *Take/edit Photos and Video for Hosea's Heart*

Hosea's Heart always needs engaging photos and videos for social media, the website, and blog posts. The number of credits would depend on the length of a video or number of photos. All photos/videos must follow our photo policy and style guide (ask about this if interested). 25 photos or a 2-3 minute video would count for about 5 credits. If your interested in doing a longer video or additional photos, let us know!

### *Sell Tenele's Treasures*

Tenele's Treasures is our fair-trade workshop product line. You can sell Tenele's Treasures at an event, host a party at your home, or at church. You would receive a set number of products to sell, anything not sold must be returned to Hosea's Heart or you will have to purchase it. For every \$50 of Tenele's Treasures products sold, you would receive 2 credits. If you volunteer to sell Tenele's Treasures products at an event run by Hosea's Heart, you will receive 3 credits. If you volunteer to sell Tenele's Treasures products at an event run by another ambassador, the number of credits you receive will be based on the total products sold (2 credits/\$50 sold).

### *Organize Fundraiser/Outreach Event*

Hosea's Heart loves new ideas! Let us know what you have in mind and we can approve your idea and offer support. Past events include a soccer tournament, change drive, and volunteer waitressing at Culvers. In order to receive 6 credits, the event should engage around 50 people. For example, many restaurants will give an organization a certain percent of the night's revenue if they bus tables. You do NOT have to have 50 people volunteering to bus tables, rather, you could have 5 people volunteer to bus tables and tell 45 people who eat at the restaurant that you are doing this for Hosea's Heart.

## **Supporting Activity Descriptions (cont.)**

### *Host Mary-Kate to Speak*

Our director, Mary-Kate is a fantastic speaker! She lives in Swaziland fulltime, however, returns to America twice per year. During things times she travels to speak to different groups (classes, clubs, churches, ect.) and if you have a group of 20+ people she can speak too, you can receive 7 credits. The group does not have met regularly to qualify. For example, you can organize a summer bonfire where Mary-Kate speaks to a group of 20+ people. This is an easy way to earn credits because Mary-Kate does all the talking, however, it can be difficult to schedule so contact us early.

### *Host a Valentine's Dance/Event*

Valentine's Day is a great time to talk about showing love to others. In the past Hosea's Heart has hosted multiple dances around Wisconsin as a way to celebrate love. You can host a dance or other Valentine's event to receive 6 credits.

### *Participate in Dream for a Dream Campaign*

Click [here](#) to read about the Hosea's Heart *Dream for a Dream* campaign. If you have a dream you want to make happen, use it to promote the Hosea's Heart mission! Contact us with ideas.

### *Host a Prayer/Worship Event*

Hosea's Heart believes in the power of prayer. While we encourage individual prayer, the purpose of this event would be to bring together a group of at least 10 people to pray and worship together. Hosea's Heart often has prayer guides to help individuals know what to pray. This prayer night does not have to be exclusively about Hosea's Heart or eSwatini, it can also include an end to sexual violence around the world and for Christ's love to bring hope to those impacted.

### *Reverse Support Letter*

This option works best if you self-fund your trip to Swaziland. After returning you would send out a letter to friends and family describing your experience and asking them to donate to Hosea's Heart. To receive 7 credits the letter would have to sent to 20+ people.

### *Support an Intern*

Interns spend 1-2 years in Swaziland. As an ambassador each month you would send them an email detailing how you have prayed for them and sending encouragement or verses. The emails should be long enough to convey effort and thoughtfulness. You would also be responsible for making the interns birthday special by sending a card, extra email, ect.

### *Graphic Design Work*

Hosea's Heart often needs graphic design work completed. If you have previous design experience and can follow our style guide, let us know!

### **Support from Hosea's Heart**

Hosea's Heart will provide basic marketing materials (logo, letterhead) and feature ambassador activities on the website or social media. However, ambassadors must be independent and plan/initiate their own activities. This is a great opportunity to show leadership and add additional skills and experiences to your resume. Our hope is that this program provides ambassadors a fulfilling experience and a flexible way to volunteer. We encourage ambassadors to work together, collaborate and support each other as a team throughout the year.





*Hosea's  
Heart*

## **Ambassador Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*1) Why do you wish to take part in this particular mission trip?*

*2) List all previous experience with service and/or immersion trips, including dates/years.*

*3) Please list any skills (i.e. foreign language proficiency, relevant traveling experience, medical training or certification, teaching experience, etc.) which you think would be of use for this immersion experience.*

*4) What do you hope to learn from this particular immersion experience?*

*5) Because the housing in Swaziland for teams is small, team members will be in close quarters with one another, rarely getting time alone.*

*A) Describe any experiences (both positive **and** negative) you've had in group settings and explain what you learned from them.*

*B) What will be your biggest struggle with living in close community? What will be your greatest contribution to the team?*

*6) In order to become fully immersed in a culture lacking much of what our American culture often takes for granted, this program asks its participants to commit abstinence from alcohol, a "no head phones" request, and a willingness to experience community in a deeply meaningful way. Would you have a problem with any of the requests made of you to live without some of the necessities you have come to depend on? Explain.*

*7) What motivates you?*

*8) This program is structured in a way that promotes spiritual reflection, prayer, and group processing. Are you comfortable with this? Have you participated and/or led others in group prayer and/or group processing? If so, describe.*

*9) How do you feel you have grown in your faith through voluntary service?*