



Embracing the culture

Empowerment for communities

- Remember: “What the poor need is not charity but capital, not caseworkers but coworkers”
- We seek to partner

Transformation for volunteers

- Open to being changed by the experience
- Service motivated by love



THE CULTURE GAME



TRICKY SITUATIONS



Giving good intentions

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Jeremy received his team leader's newsletters and the Global Village welcome materials. His team leader assumed that he read them, including the section on gift giving. During orientation the host coordinator addressed gift giving, too.

Near the end of the build Jeremy was working as hard as all the other volunteers. When it was time for a break, he put down his trowel and went over to his backpack.

He pulled out a bag of candy, balloons, coloring books, and chalk and started throwing them to the children watching the team work. The children surrounded him and pushed and shove to grab the gifts.

He told his team that he planned to give away all his clothes before he left, as well as his iPod and work boots.

Giving gifts

- Good intentions are a great start...
- Gifts cause unintended complications
- Gifts accidentally reduce dignity
- Mementos such as photos, signs are great
- Leave other gifts with host coordinator



Promoting dignity

- Hope, not despair
- Learning, not gawking
- Build with, not build for
- Equals, not “the needy”
- “Global South,” or “developing world” not “third world”



Taking photos in the community

- A photo of “the needy” —or a photo with your equal?
- A photo that promotes their dignity
- How would you advise a volunteer who wants to photograph a family’s poverty housing?



An invitation

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Building with the neighbors on site, everything is going fine. Halfway through your stay a team member approaches you and says that she has something she would like to discuss.

She is rather embarrassed and upset about the situation so you find a place where you can talk in private.

Once you are alone she tells you that the night before, when the team was relaxing after dinner, a local approached her and asked if he could escort her back to her room. She felt it was a proposition.

The team member explains that she rejected the offer and returned to her room alone, feeling shocked and very uncomfortable about what had taken place.

The next day, still feeling uneasy about the incident, the local returned to the team's hotel restaurant.

The team member saw him and wondered if he was there to apologize. Instead, he began to flirt and propositioned her again.

An invitation

- What issues do you imagine the volunteer faces here?
- What issues do you imagine you would face here?
- What would you do first?
 - Confront the local man
 - Call the host coordinator
 - Gather the team to discuss

An invitation

- What issues do you imagine the volunteer faces here?
- What issues do you imagine you would face here?
- What would you do first?
- What would you ask the host coordinator?
 - Can you keep this community member away from the team?
 - Can you get this community member to apologize?
 - Can you explain to the volunteer how her clothing sent the wrong signal?

Respecting your host coordinator

- Your first best resource and your local friend— but they're also “on the job”
- Please allow them free time at night
- Please treat them professionally when asking favors
- Please respect them as equals when considering gifts



Drinking after work

- Respect community standards
- Represent Habitat well
- Help team keep perspective
- Establish our expectations and team norms

Remember our goals

- Empowerment for communities
- Transformation for volunteers