

GPSA

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Empowering
young people to
become active
global leaders

A Message from Our Directors

Vanessa Lee Brombosz & Lennert Rohde

Dear friends of GPSA,

We have the privilege of presenting our accomplishments in 2022, a year of growth and renewal for GPSA. We are happy to share what we have been up to.

During 2022, GPSA hosted two partner schools for our Global Health Travel Program in West Virginia. Participants worked directly with health care professionals at the Williamson Health and Wellness Center in Williamson, assisting the center's community health initiatives. Participants worked in the hospital, lent a hand during health fairs, and engaged with children in a daycare, screened people for diabetes and hypertension, and taught health related topics to children.

Additionally, we hosted 23 participants in our *Youth Leadership in Global Health* eCourse. The program is tailored for individuals who have a passion for healthcare and want to gain leadership and project management experience, while learning more about how they can play a role in global health. All participants successfully designed and implemented community health projects to identify actions aimed at reducing health inequalities in their communities.

We would like to thank our trusted partners, who have continued to collaboratively work with GPSA to ensure that we can provide high quality programming so that youth can be empowered to become active global leaders. Thank you to our staff, Program Manager Marissa Loterina, Project Coordinator Celia Enriquez, and our talented mentors who have successfully ran programs throughout the year.

We look forward to working with you in 2023 and beyond. Thank you for your continued partnership and participation.

Warm regards,

Vanessa & Lennert



Let Us Introduce You to Our New Mission, Vision, and Values!

The year was filled with growth and change. As an organization, we established a new mission, vision, and set of core values. We are excited to share those with you!

Mission

Empowering young people to become active global leaders by collaborating with local authorities to promote health equity in underserved communities.

Vision

Young people taking action to make a positive impact globally.

Values

- *Responsibility: We cultivate responsibility, trust, and mutual respect.*
- *Community: We value our community through cultural competence and inclusion.*
- *Growth: We thrive together through collaborative decision making.*

Our Impact

Since 2010

850

Alumni from our Global Health Travel Programs

120

Student participants in our eCourse

Global Health Travel Program

In 2022, we resumed our Global Travel Program in Williamson, West Virginia. We hosted two partner schools. This program is unique in that we work with community health workers from the Williamson Health and Wellness Center to provide an array of health services. Their primary patients are uninsured and receive support through US government welfare programs. Participants assisted with health activities such as sitting in educational sessions, attending home visits, organizing health fairs, and working at the clinic. Participants received hands-on experience by learning and conducting clinical services such as:

- Screening for diabetes
- Screening for high blood pressure
- Reading vitals (temperature, oxygen levels, heart rate, respiration rate)
- Screening for malnutrition by measuring body mass index (height and weight)

During the program, participants learned more about West Virginia and it's culture. Some of the cultural activities included:

- West Virginia Coal Mine Wars Museum
- Workout classes at Downtown Yoga
- Scavenger hunt of downtown Williamson
- Bowling

A Total of 23
Participants in
Our West
Virginia Program
in 2022!



Youth Leadership in Global Health eCourse



We hosted three eCourse sessions for a total of 23 students in 2022. During our eCourse, participants were tasked to develop and implement a global health promotion project within their communities. The projects focused on an array of topics such as mental health, physical activity, music and health, dementia and caregivers, gender equality, and climate change. Different types of media were used to execute the projects like Instagram profiles, YouTube videos, storybooks, websites, brochures, flyers, school clubs, and songs.

Check Out These Student Projects



[My Heart: A story about a boy during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)



[Mental.health](#)



[Relationships between music and mental health](#)

Visit our website to see more!



Nataysia's Story

Nataysia Mikula-Noble has always been passionate about healthcare and medicine. When she heard about GPSA at her high school in Vancouver, Canada, she was immediately drawn to our travel program because it would provide a hands-on experience in the field of health.

In 2017, she participated in our Guatemala Global Health Travel Program. She later returned in 2018 as a Leader in Training for our Belize Global Health Travel Program, where she developed a public health campaign, highlighting the importance of handwashing in transmissible disease prevention. Nataysia and her team painted a mural on the side of a primary school building depicting the steps to proper handwashing.

She recently graduated from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland with a Bachelor of Science in Medicine. Nataysia is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degree (MBChB) at the University of Edinburgh. She also serves as a mentor for participants enrolled in our Youth Leadership in Global Health eCourse.

Learn more about Nataysia's story [here](#).



Nataysia (center) during her first GPSA program in Guatemala in 2017



Nataysia with the mural she painted in Belize in 2018

"I believe this volunteer experience has not only provided me with hands-on clinical skills experience, it also opened my eyes to the health care inequalities that are present, and the importance of global and public health systems around the world. I also created life long bonds with my host families, with whom I am in contact with to this day."

- Nataysia

Our Future Plans



We are happy to share that our four Global Health Travel sites - Belize, Guatemala, Thailand, and West Virginia, are now open in addition to our eCourse for 2023! We have the privilege to continue working with our trusted health, high school, and service partners. Together we will continue working to achieve the following goals:

- Building leadership capacity of participants on how they can play an active role in global health in becoming active global citizens.
- Gaining a different perspective about health accessibility and equity through a unique hands-on-immersion experience in an underserved community.
- Challenging participants to stretch beyond their comfort zone.
- Strengthening collaborative relationships with local authorities to better support their communities and healthcare professionals in addressing health inequities.



Transparency of Finances

13%

Administrative Costs

These costs are related to GPSA being able to maintain regular business operations such as salaries, equipment, utilities, supplies and legal council.

50%

Operations Costs

These costs include the direct costs GPSA has to cover to be able to run a travel program and eCourse.

37%

Clinical & Community Development

A majority of our funds are invested in the community we work in to foster community development. This means, ensuring that we are paying fair wages to our service providers. Half of these funds support our local health partner initiatives. The other half support local businesses and NGOs.

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