



Mission in Bolivia

Summer 2024

Applicant Name

Application for the Deese Initiative Grant

Name: **Applicant Name**

Major: **Intercultural Studies & Political Science,
minor in Spanish**

Academic Classification: **Junior**

Name of sponsoring organization: _____ **Organization**

The location service project will take place **La Paz, Bolivia**

Description of service project

I plan to partner with [Organization], which serves women and children in the community affected by sexual exploitation. I will serve their ministry by creating a donor engagement report communicating five years of [Organization] and their partner ministries' impact. This project will aid the organization in generating more funds, increasing awareness about the organization and how it serves vulnerable populations in La Paz, and providing the organization with a resource.

Faculty recommender _____

I. Personal Qualifications & Future Goals

I am a junior at Asbury University, where I study intercultural studies, political science, and Spanish. My choice of academic pursuits reflects my interest in missions and enacting justice for the oppressed, marginalized, and forgotten. Through many experiences, I have felt my heart break for the lost and least of these. In my future career I hope to defend the rights of vulnerable populations, perhaps internationally. With [Organization], I'll have the opportunity to learn about organizations that serve the vulnerable, how they're structured, and how their operations empower and honor those they serve. An internship with [Organization] will equip me as I learn from an organization how to walk through brokenness with vulnerable populations and find redemptive healing.

I have had many formative experiences that solidified my desire to work with organizations that serve vulnerable populations. In the summer of 2021, I interned with a ministry focused on community development in the Dominican Republic. I served as a media intern and captured content that reflected the ministry's story and vision. While living there, I learned about our Lord's provision and ways to empower local leaders to make disciples. Visiting the U.S. & Mexico border taught me that there is great work to be done in uplifting and honoring the displaced and sharing their stories. Spending weeks in Germany & Poland touring sites relevant to the Holocaust affirmed my desire to defend basic human dignity and to fight for the restoration of the *imago Dei* and for proper treatment that reflects humans' inherent value.

[Organization] recognizes this value. They partner with local organizations that respond to both educational gaps and sexual exploitation through economic opportunities to serve those vulnerable to poverty and exploitation.

II. Benefit of this Collaborative Project to [Organization]

[Organization] exists to “collaborate with locally run organizations serving those vulnerable to poverty and exploitation.” They live out this mission through community outreach to women and children affected by sexual exploitation. Their women’s program serves the red-light districts of La Paz and invites women who are victims of sexual exploitation to join their Bible studies, holistic individual or group counseling sessions, or visit their drop-in center for necessities. These organizations educate and empower women partaking in their economic development programs through classes on micro-loans, budgeting, saving, and small business management. Their children’s ministry provides youth with a stable, secure place where youth can thrive through engaging activities, learning opportunities, and nutritional support.

As I serve within the [Organization] community, I will create a donor engagement report summarizing the last five years at [Organization] and their partner ministries. Interviews with staff, community members, and those they serve will aid in my retelling of the work [Organization] is doing. Compiling statistical measures to demonstrate their impact will also be included in this report. This project will benefit the ministry as a resource to generate funding, increase awareness about [Organization] and its impact, and provide the organization with a tangible, useful resource.

During my time in La Paz, I will create and compile this information as a resource [Organization] can utilize long after my departure, supporting a sustainable model of ministry. I will capture, share, and join in the work [Organization] has done and continues to faithfully do. With this opportunity, I hope to communicate the lasting and redemptive change [Organization] programming has on sexually exploited women and their families.

III. Goals & Tasks

i. Four main goals

During my time in Bolivia, I will allocate my time to focus on four main goals. The first is **to create and present** [Organization] **with a donor engagement report** they can utilize for fundraising efforts and increasing awareness of their work in local communities. I will do this through research, interviews, data compilation, translation of stories into English, and proposing ways to best communicate their impact.

Additionally, **language acquisition** is a goal I'll work towards daily. I am staying with a Bolivian family throughout my time in Bolivia. This experience will be invaluable as I work towards my goal of fluency in Spanish and of developing relationships with Bolivians. I've heard others say when you speak to someone in their language, you are speaking to their heart. Improving my Spanish helps lay the groundwork for future ministry I hope to engage in.

Another objective I will focus on is **gaining a greater understanding of anti-trafficking organizations** like [Organization] by reading literature on the subject and interviewing staff members. This will help me gain a better understanding of the causes of trafficking, of how this organization and others structure themselves to respond, and of best-practices that lead to healing and holistic restoration.

My last goal is to further learn and **understand how to do missional practice with vulnerable populations**. I will spend my days alongside Christian workers, observing and discussing how the gospel is contextualized and learning how our own mentalities and culture can potentially limit or even harm those in other cultures. I hope to identify the ways Christian

workers proclaim the good news and freedom in Bolivia to those Jesus says will inherit the kingdom of Heaven.

ii. Pre-project preparations

In preparation for my time in Bolivia, I have planned multiple activities to mitigate where I am lacking in knowledge. I have compiled a growing reading list to equip me with basic knowledge of ministering to those affected by sexual exploitation. In order to gain a greater understanding of the cultural climate I am entering, I plan to also familiarize myself with the political and social context of La Paz, Bolivia, through books like *A Revolution in Fragments: Traversing the Scales of Justice, Ideology, and Practice in Bolivia* and *The Bolivia Reader: History, Culture, and Politics*. I also will practice my Spanish by reading Spanish literature about Bolivia.

Additionally, I will research what common, effective communication strategies are utilized in La Paz, past reports and communications and vulnerable person protection policies so I can create a report that incorporates intercultural communication strategies to best communicate cross-culturally. I will also research culturally appropriate ways to interact and connect with women and children since I'll be serving those populations primarily.

I plan to send out letters to close family and friends, asking them to join me in prayer as I go and to pray for specific requests such as over my host family and women and children I will be working alongside. My first goal is to create a donor engagement report for [Organization]. To better create and present the report I will familiarize myself with Canva, Word Processing, and

other digital formatting platforms through online courses on Coursera. These practices will not only benefit me but also those I will be serving.

iii. Tables of Goals & Tasks

WEEK	GOAL	TASK
Week 1	Create the donor engagement report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile data that communicates community impact to include in report • Meet with organization director and ask about her expectations of the report • Sit down with staff member and outline [Organization] operations and partnerships
	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend language lessons three times a week • Connect with host family over meals throughout the week • Invest in relationships with program staff by farmer’s market outings
	Understanding anti-trafficking organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve within women and children ministries four days a week • Begin reading book, <i>Broken Whole</i> • Sit down with staff member and outline [Organization] operations and partnerships
	Understanding of missional practice to vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a schedule for weekly meetings with [Organization] intern coordinator • Meet with missionaries over meals and ask about their experience serving • Ask intern coordinator questions to gain understanding of Bolivian culture’s treatment towards vulnerable populations • Record experiences in journal
Week 2	Create donor engagement report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview 3 staff members and ask about their experience working with [Organization] • Compile data that communicates community impact to include in report • Capture photos of outreach events to include
	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend language lessons three times a week • Communicate with host family in daily interactions • Invest in relationships with organization staff—share a meal/ go to coffee
	Understanding anti-trafficking organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve within women and children ministries four days a week • Continue reading <i>Broken Whole</i> • Sit in on Bible study for women affected by sexual exploitation
	Understanding of missional practice to vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with [Organization] intern coordinator • Read assigned book about serving vulnerable populations through incarnational lens • Ask intern coordinator about cultural background of sexual exploitation in La Paz • Record experiences in journal

Week 3	Create donor engagement report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview 3 staff members and ask about their experience working with [Organization] • Compile data that communicates community impact to include in report • Capture photos of outreach events to include
	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend language lessons three times a week • Communicate with host family in daily interactions
	Understanding anti-trafficking organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve within women and children ministries four days a week • Sit in on Bible study for women affected by sexual exploitation • Observe structures within [Organization] and learn the rationale behind them
	Understanding of missional practice to vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with [Organization] intern coordinator • Meet with missionaries over meals and ask about their experience serving • Continue reading book about serving vulnerable populations through incarnational lens • Record experiences in journal
Week 4	Create donor engagement report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate and annotate interviews to identify any emerging themes that will be highlighted in the report • Present rough draft to intern coordinator and organization director
	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend language lessons three times a week • Communicate with host family in daily interactions
	Understanding anti-trafficking organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve within women and children ministries four days a week • Sit in on Bible study for women affected by sexual exploitation
	Understanding of missional practice to vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with [Organization] intern coordinator • Sit down with staff and ask about the “Freedom Walk” they host annually • Begin reading and discussing <i>Gracias!</i> with intern coordinator • Record experiences in journal
Week 5	Create donor engagement report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive feedback from initial rough draft and make necessary changes • Create preliminary plan for how report will be shared throughout organization and to donors
	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend language lessons three times a week • Communicate with host family in daily interactions • Begin preparations to take DELE
	Understanding anti-trafficking organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve within women and children ministries four days a week • Sit in on Bible study for women affected by sexual exploitation • Note counseling strategies that are employed during group & individual therapy sessions
	Understanding of missional practice to vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with [Organization] intern coordinator • Observe how local churches and organizations support vulnerable populations • Record experiences in journal

Week 6	Create donor engagement report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share completed report with [Organization] staff • Finalize plans for how report will be distributed throughout organization and to donors
	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend language lessons three times a week • Communicate with host family in daily interactions • Continue studying for DELE
	Understanding anti-trafficking organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve within women and children ministries four days a week • Record final observations on how programs are structured to best serve survivors
	Understanding of missional practice to vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with [Organization] intern coordinator • Contemplate and write out preliminary plan for what long-term partnership with [Organization] looks like • Record experiences in journal

iv. Post project plan

I know that I will build great, new relationships with those living and serving in Bolivia.

While there, I will identify ways to continue partnering with the people and supporting the work of [Organization].

Upon return from Bolivia, I have a few plans of how I will share my experience with my community on campus and in my hometown. I plan on preparing presentations that I can present to my community, my home church, and my campus. My presentations will include lessons learned in Bolivia, content from the donor engagement report I will create, and stories from my personal experiences and journal entries. I will include photographs and videos in my presentations - after ensuring all the necessary permissions have been obtained. I hope to inform individuals here of the impact [Organization] has on its surrounding communities.

Dr. _____, Asbury professor for intercultural studies, frequently invites presenters to share about their international experiences. I'll have the opportunity to speak to several of her classes about my experience serving with [Organization]. I will also build on the language acquisition I

achieve in Bolivia. With consistent tutoring and conversation with friends from Latin America, I am confident I can continue to improve.

IV. Budget

I. Transportation

- a. To/from the site (airfare).....\$1,550
- b. During the internship (bus, train, taxi, etc.).....\$100

II. Lodging

- a. Hotel expense related to travel to/from site.....\$0
- b. Lodging during internship (\$60/week).....\$360

III. Meals

- a. Meal expense related to travel to/from site.....\$0
- b. Meals during internship.....\$300

IV. Miscellaneous expenses

- a. Passport.....\$0**
- b. Visa (landing visa).....\$160**
- c. Immunizations.....\$0**

d. Organizational cost

- (Office Administration and Processes).....\$460
- (Field Honorarium).....\$200
- (Field Admin and Communications).....\$150
- (Language Trainings).....\$350

e. Medical and evacuation insurance

(Geoblue travel & medical insurance).....\$100

f. Supplies

(Programming supplies for internship).....\$200

g. Contingency.....\$50

h. Other

(Retreat with staff).....\$120

V. Stipend \$300 per week x 6 weeks.....\$1,800

GRAND TOTAL:.....\$5,900

V. Letter of support from [Host Organization]

January 25th, 2024

[Recommender Name]

[Recommender Title]

Word Made Flesh

Letter of Recommendation for [Applicant Name]

To Whom it May Concern,

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for [Applicant's Name] to receive the Deese Initiative Grant. As I have gotten to know [Applicant], it is hard to not see her heart for the Lord and her desire for serving the vulnerable and marginalized around the world. [Applicant] is constantly interested in the needs of her community and the world around her to see where she can use her gifts and knowledge to make an impact. Currently, she excels in this by serving as the Ignited Class President at Asbury University, and she is a Student Ambassador in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Also, she is advancing in her education as an intercultural studies/ political science major and a Spanish minor, while remaining a loyal and caring friend and active part of her community.

The [Organization] community in Bolivia works in partnership with two local organizations in Bolivia that serve those who are vulnerable to poverty and exploitation. They both work directly with women who are victims of sexual exploitation and their families to empower them to develop a healthy and sustainable lifestyle. Both organizations run community centers in the heart of El Alto, Bolivia for women and children. The [Organization] Regional Coordinator for Latin America, works

in partnership with these local organizations, creates opportunities for internships, and mentors the interns in Bolivia. Our organization is excited to have [Applicant] serve alongside our staff and local partners, ministering in tangible ways to those in need.

Together with [Applicant], we have designed a rich and formative internship. One of her primary objectives will be to create a Statistical Report on programs and impact for [Organization] and its partner organizations. This report will help our organization and partners evaluate their programs, communicate to supporters, and increase their financial sustainability as they seek to respond to vulnerable women and children. I firmly believe that [Applicant] is a worthy recipient of the Deese Grant and that it will be an investment in her life and have a positive and long-lasting impact on our organization and our partners in Bolivia as well.

I appreciate your consideration of [Applicant's] application for the Deese Grant and of her desire to learn and serve among vulnerable populations through the work of [Organization] in Bolivia. If you have any questions or need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With appreciation,

[Recommender Name]

[Recommender Title]

[Organization]

[Recommender Email]

VI. Letter of recommendation from faculty member



2 February 2024

Deese Initiative Grant Review Committee
Asbury University
1 Macklem Drive
Wilmore, KY 40390

Dear Committee,

I wish to express my strong support for [REDACTED]'s Deese Initiative Grant Application. Last year, [REDACTED] took my class "The Border" in which we traveled to the US-Mexican border to speak with people impacted by migration. She was very moved by her encounters with migrants. I remember she told me about speaking with one older woman who expressed to [REDACTED] that she felt she did not matter to anyone. [REDACTED] felt powerless to help the woman, but she also acknowledged that she could at least listen and hold the woman's story in her heart before God.

After the trip to the border, I strongly encouraged [REDACTED] to plan on spending the summer of 2024 in the field so she could improve her language skills while also opening her heart to others. From my own experiences abroad, I recognize how important it is to immerse oneself in a language to learn it. Improving her Spanish will empower [REDACTED] to love and serve marginalized communities in the future, whether here in the United States or abroad. I am so pleased that [REDACTED] developed a summer project that not only allows her to live with a host family but also support a mission organization which works with women who are sexually exploited.

Not only is [REDACTED] a good and hard-working student, but she is compassionate, honest, courageous, and humble. She is teachable and willing to push herself to grow and rethink long-held ideas. She longs to live fully into Jesus' proclamation that the kingdom of heaven is good news *for the poor*. I have such a deep respect for [REDACTED] as a person, and I fully support her grant application for the Deese Initiative Grant.

Best regards,



