

Greenheart International 2022 Impact Report



greenheart®

## A letter from Greenheart CEO, Laura Rose

As the world continues to reel from the effects of the pandemic and geopolitical strife, we find solace in the knowledge that each participant and member of the Greenheart community is a torchbearer shining a bright light on what is possible when people of different nations, cultures and perspectives live, work, learn and play together in common space.

Every Greenheart participant has a unique story of the indelible impact international exchange has had on their lives-- from attending host siblings' weddings in far flung lands, to pursuing careers in a second language. The doors of potential are flung open wide after savoring the exquisite flavors of cultural exchange. Having facilitated close to 170,000 programs over the course of 37 years, Greenheart has witnessed firsthand the astonishingly positive impact that participation in our programs has had-- not just in the immediate term, but over a lifetime.

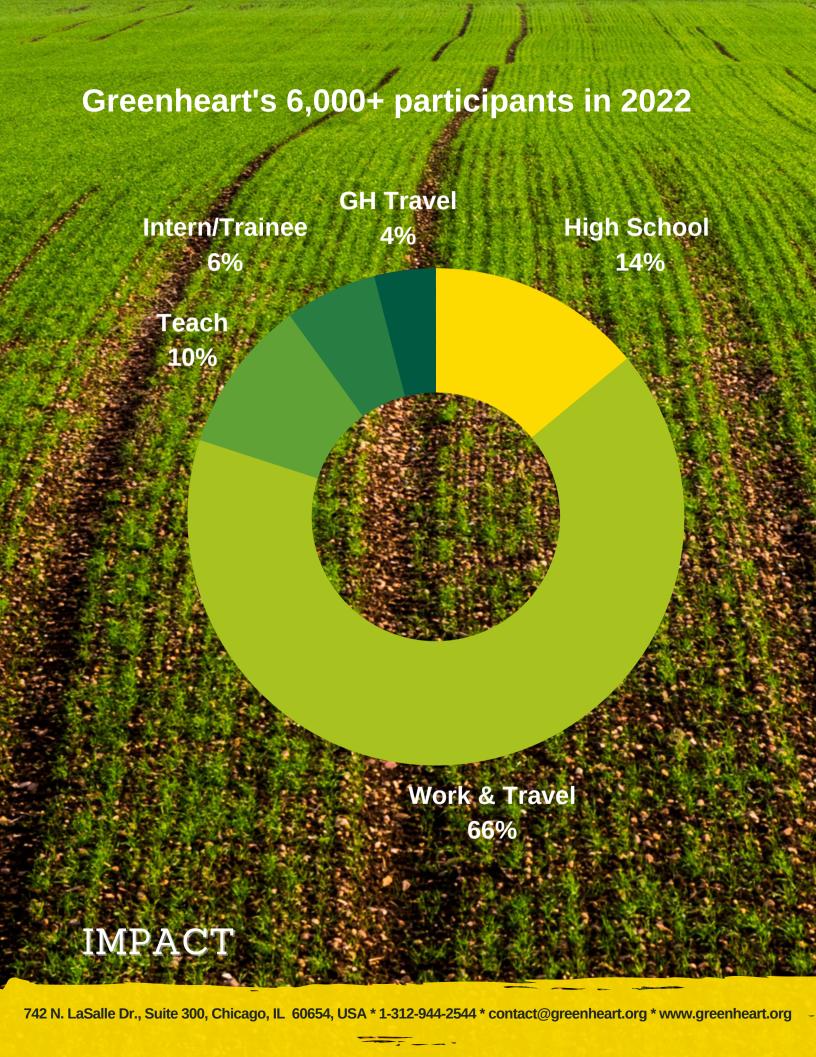
I will never forget the delightful encounter I had while visiting a Greenheart Sending Partner in the Czech Republic more than 20 years ago. Her 15-year old daughter, Jana, was nervously excited as she prepared to leave for a high school abroad program in the US. Many years later, Jana shared that she'd given birth to her first child after losing her beloved mother to illness, and that the American host mother Jana had lived with as a teenager in Illinois, had flown to the Czech Republic to lend a hand following her baby's birth. Over the years, Jana's host mom has become a cherished grandmother to Jana's kids, with the two families taking turns visiting each other in the U.S. and Czech Republic each year.

Jana's story is one of thousands that convey the extraordinary gift of friendship experienced by those who participate in a Greenheart program, with each bond contributing a bright spark to the flame of the indominatable spirit of positivity and determination. It is this spark that ignites the passion in the Greenheart team to continue to provide the rich experiences that result in the life-affirming memories that make every day a treasure.

"Let nothing dim the light that shines from within." ~ Maya Angelou

As we continue to shape and nurture the unfolding of these transformational experiences, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, welcoming communities, and generous hosts for their flexibility and commitment in the fast-changing world around us. And most of all, we wish to thank them for illuminating the path for future participants to follow their biggest dreams.

With appreciation, Laura Rose, CEO









95% of our inbound participants state that our programs left them with a positive impression of the United States.

100% of Greenheart Travel participants plan to stay in touch with people they met on program.

95% of our Host Organizations have a more positive impression of other countries after hosting.

**IMPACT** 







### GREENHEART EXCHANGE

#### **WORK & TRAVEL:**

"I got to meet a lot of new people, to visit many places with my friends from Argentina, America and Japan. I went skiing for the first time and it was precious to see the giant mountains and white snow. I'm improving my English and that's so great. My bosses and coworkers are the best, always willing to help and have a good time working." *Aldana*, *Argentina* 

"Whenever I had questions, Greenheart was so caring, helped me a lot. Being in a different country alone, having emotional support makes you less alone. If I have a chance to be in America with a sponsorship, I 100% will take that shot." - Deger, Turkey

"The job fair was absolutely perfect; it was far above what I expected as a new host. The participants provided for us were top-notch. The process was easy and efficient, it was time well spent!" *Mike, Host Organization* www.hirewithgreenheart.org

#### **INTERN / TRAINEE:**

"My organization had a keen interest in obtaining experience, knowledge, and skills from talented graduates locally and internationally with expertise in molecular diagnostics. It is our first time hosting an international trainee and we have seen great integration and contributions; this will not be our last trainee." *Robert, Host Organization* www.hostgreenheartprofessionals.org

### GREENHEART EXCHANGE

#### **HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS:**

"I had a unique experience and I am so happy I decided to join the cross-country team. It doesn't matter if you are an exchange student or not, you run for the team, and therefore you are a part of it. I say to other people do an exchange year! You see a lot, experience a lot, and learn a lot, which is just unique and wonderful." *Verena, Germany* 

#### www.hostwithgreenheart.org

www.placewithgreenheart.org

"My year was amazing. I became a completely different person. I learned to be responsible for my actions and words, to be independent, to be more open-minded and friendly, and to be happy and grateful for everything that I have. Greenheart helped me a lot and gave me so many things to be thankful for--including my host family and local coordinator." *Arina, Uzbekistan* 

#### **TEACH USA:**

"Exchange teachers have not only filled positions within the classroom but have brought their culture and experiences to our school and community. Our exchange teachers are eager to learn and try new strategies to meet the needs of today's learners. The program provides Desert Pines High School with high-quality teachers with a passion of building relationships with students and helping them to see diversity." Host School Adminstrator

www.hostgreenheartteachers.org









#### GREENHEART TRAVEL

"It was now or never. I wanted to travel abroad to test myself, personally and professionally. I knew I could make it as an educator in the U.S. and adding this journey to my resume is giving me a wealth of knowledge and experience. In life, when the stars all align, you have to go for it." *Michael, Teach Abroad in South Korea* 

www.greenhearttravel.org



#### GREENHEART SHOP

Greenheart Shop continued its growth and development as a leading fair trade wholesaler. A dedicated staff focused on the wholesale Sobremesa-- maintaining key artisan relationships, increasing marketing efforts on social media and partner websites, and focusing on online orders/sales.

www.greenheartshop.org





We awarded six Global Impact Grants in 2022--funding for community projects to help connect people & planet. Congratulations to these Greenheart alumni: Samuel Takyi-Elkannah, Albert "Fiifil" Haizel, & Precious Esi Mensah (Ghana), Shannon Villanueva (USA), Kimbian S. Lim (Philippines), & Tiara Prasetyaningtyas (Indonesia). We can't wait to see the outcomes and positive impact!

To contribute to future grants and scholarships, visit: www.greenheart.org

## VISION

In 2023, Greenheart will further our mission to facilitate meaningful programs and products that connect people + planet through:

- Deepening key partnerships
- Reinstating in-person
   Global Leaders
   Conferences
- Expanding Greenheart Impact Grants
- Advocating for bi-partisan support of cultural exchange programs
- Increasing engagement with staff and key stakeholders.









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