A Letter from CEO, Laura Rose

As we continue into 2020, we will be reflecting on what has made us proud. Greenheart International is thrilled to be celebrating our 35th year in 2020 and to embody this year’s theme:

Vision for 2020

For the past 35 years, Greenheart International has focused on improving the world around us, empowering individuals to see the global impact being made by Greenheart and so many like-minded individuals. In a world faced with environmental degradation and social injustice, Greenheart International is committed to extending our worldviews, applying a new understanding that is broader, sharper and more focused on improving the world around us, thus becoming a more compassionate “we”.

To extend our worldviews, we need to see the global impact being made by Greenheart and so many like-minded individuals. In a world faced with environmental degradation and social injustice, Greenheart International is committed to extending our worldviews, applying a new understanding that is broader, sharper and more focused on improving the world around us, thus becoming a more compassionate “we”.

Since its inception 35 years ago, Greenheart International has welcomed more than 150,000 participants to our programs and witnessed the making of countless passionate global citizens. Countless aspirations were fulfilled through our Greenheart Global Impact Grants, volunteer projects, and leadership workshops. Our grant recipients worked with local youth in some of the most underserved regions of the world to create playgrounds for children in Jamaica, teach English to Afghan refugees in Tajikistan, and teach entrepreneurship in Ghana. These projects helped to prevent them from joining gangs. The experience of belonging to a sports team provides a positive outlet for these village women and youth, improving their lives while enhancing their community as a whole.

In addition to supporting our participants, Greenheart International has been able to create social transformation through international education. Since 1985, we have been partnering with schools in the USA to send adults who had never left the USA to live and work in Vietnam for a year—the first of its kind. A cultural exchange program, in hopes that they will broaden their horizons and in the long run, contribute to more understanding and compassion in the world in general. Scholarships are a pinnacle of our mission to help facilitate cultural exchange. The experience of belonging to a sports team provides a positive outlet for these village women and youth, improving their lives while enhancing their community as a whole.

Greenheart International strives to support 94 scholars from around the world to take part in the 5 parts of our Odyssey—Cultural Exchange, Access to Education, Community Development, and Global Change. Greenheart International has grown to serve over 20,000 participants from all over the world. In 2018 alone, we had 11 camps in 12 countries, with 71% of our participants being women.

Greenheart International continues to be an advocate for the environment and cultural exchange. Marius, a participant in our Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program funded by the U.S. Department of State, is a true example of what can be accomplished through personal engagement with innovative leaders. Marius attended Central Penn College in Pennsylvania for his academic year. Both in school and in his community, Marius was actively engaged with his peers, faculty, and community leaders. He witnessed environmental degradation first-hand and became passionate about the environment. Marius’s story helps to prevent them from joining gangs. The experience of belonging to a sports team provides a positive outlet for these village women and youth, improving their lives while enhancing their community as a whole. He is currently studying Environmental Science and has plans to return to his home in Armenia and work with the local community to implement sustainable practices.

To support Greenheart International’s mission of extending our worldviews, we need to understand that no step is too small. The Greenheart Shop operated in a reduced format in The Galleria, an artist co-op in the unique and tropical state, and continues to be an advocate for the environment and cultural exchange. He is part of the Greenheart Alumni Council. To fulfill the council’s objectives of transforming lives and extending our worldviews, to apply a new understanding that is broader, sharper and more focused on improving the world around us, thus becoming a more compassionate “we”.

In the past year, the Greenheart Shop experienced a large growth in both our customer base and product offering. One highlight was the pop-up shop in Chicago, which included the Fair Trade Holiday Market and 8 other Christmas fairs. We had our largest sales day in our history in Madison, Wisconsin, at our Fair Trade Holiday market in early December. The Greenheart Shop operated in a reduced format in The Galleria, an artist co-op in the unique and tropical state, and continues to be an advocate for the environment and cultural exchange. He is part of the Greenheart Alumni Council. To fulfill the council’s objectives of transforming lives and extending our worldviews, to apply a new understanding that is broader, sharper and more focused on improving the world around us, thus becoming a more compassionate “we”.

Greenheart International is proud to have been a part of the Greenheart Odyssey by becoming a financial partner with Greenheart. Please visit our website at www.greenheart.org to learn more about our mission and how you can support us.

Warmly,

Laura Rose

CEO

Greenheart International

2019 Impact Report