



The Clermont Field Service Programme

Better People, Better World

A partnership between the Clermont Academy and the Chandler Foundation, the Clermont Field Service Programme is a unique initiative that combines service and mentorship. It offers our leaders-in-training the opportunity to spend time “in the field” working alongside “Champion” professionals who are making waves in the world of development.



Jonathan Lewis, a member of Clermont Holdings' Financial Services team, with his Champion mentor Andrew Youn, Co-Founder of One Acre Fund
Rwanda, August 2016.

How it Works

Each field service opportunity is a bespoke experience where an associate is carefully matched with a Champion who helms one of the social enterprises that the Chandler Foundation supports. The Champion plays the role of a mentor, as the associate works on a short-term project that tangibly aids the Champion's cause.



Purpose and Intended Outcomes of the Programme

Discover the World

The field service experiences allow our leaders-in-training to immerse themselves in unfamiliar surroundings, exposing them to different cultures and environments. Having to navigate through unforeseen challenges helps them to learn responsibility and adaptability.

Gain Important Life Skills

By engaging with the less-advantaged and those dedicated to helping them, our associates learn the importance of respecting diverse cultural boundaries while honing important skills such as how to relate, communicate, integrate, and operate in new surroundings.

Heart Training

The Clermont Field Service Programme aims to develop whole and healthy associates with the value systems, courage, and character to influence the culture around them. By living in the atmosphere of Champions, it is hoped that our associates will be inspired to become better people who can contribute to a better world.



Christopher Forbes (right), Vice President of Clermont Capital, helped Proximity Designs to improve their financial services processes as his field service project

Myanmar, October 2018.

Service: Real Talent Meets Real Needs

To avoid the pitfalls of “voluntourism”, great pains are taken to ensure that the associates’ skills can be usefully applied in a concrete and mutually beneficial short project.

By taking an in-depth look at the problems that an organisation or mission faces, and providing individuals with the necessary skills to address them, the programme offers a unique proposition that has the potential to affect real change.

We believe that working in unfamiliar settings to address the issue of poverty helps our associates to improve their problem-solving abilities. By learning how to create connections across different social strata, they gain confidence and improve their relational skills as well.



Oliver Parker (right), previously Vice President of Clermont Holdings, with his mentor Shaun Church, President of Living Goods

Kenya, May 2017.

Feedback from our Champion Mentors

“In 2016, Clermont’s Jonathan Lewis assisted us in increasing efficiency and controls within our newly centralised global finance operations. We are big believers that when properly matched to an organisation and project, skills-based corporate volunteers can make a meaningful difference to social enterprises.”

Andrew Youn, Co-Founder of One Acre Fund and mentor to Jonathan Lewis, a member of the Financial Services team, Clermont Holdings.

“Having the external perspective of someone not as close to our work is immensely valuable. It has helped us take a step back and re-evaluate some of our assumptions and current ways of working.”

Shaun Church, President of Living Goods and mentor to Oliver Parker, previously Vice President, Clermont Holdings.



Co-Founder of Proximity Designs
Debbie Aung Din.
Myanmar, October 2018.

Mentorship: A Heart Culture to Emulate

Mentorship is a key part of the Field Service Programme. Our mentors include Co-Founder of Proximity Designs Debbie Aung Din, Co-Founder of One Acre Fund Andrew Youn, and President of Living Goods Shaun Church.

By spending time with these visionary individuals, it is intended that our associates will come to model the Champions' "winning qualities", of humility, compassion, and drive.

“The Champions we invest in are ideal mentors for the Clermont Field Service Programme because they have bold visions, are masters in the art of execution, and are above all, servant-hearted leaders.”

Chandler Foundation's Vice President
Melanie Hui



Martin Robinson (right) visited a private clinic in Lusaka
Zambia, June 2016.

Testimonies Martin Robinson

“ I feel proud to be a member of an organisation that can contribute so meaningfully to human well-being and prosperity. I now have a new appreciation for the totality of Clermont's vision of a world flourishing with everyone's creativity. I am also very grateful to be part of a House that invests in, and continually challenges its team members to become the best that they can be. ”

Managing Director, Clermont Holdings



Christopher Forbes in the field
with Proximity Designs.
Myanmar, October 2018.

Testimonies *Christopher Forbes*

“ My field service experience has transformed the way I think to revolve more around the idea of serving others. My mentors were Proximity’s Founders Debbie Aung Din and Jim Taylor, and its CFO Piet Schutter – humble leaders who are passionate about reducing poverty in rural Myanmar. They taught me about servant-heartedness and the importance of good heart culture. I aspire to build on this experience and work towards becoming a better person who can contribute to a better world. ”

Vice President, Clermont Capital



Jonathan Lewis (left) worked with members of One Acre Fund's finance team to improve their invoicing and payments system

Rwanda, August 2016.

Testimonies *Jonathan Lewis*

“ The experience made me truly appreciate what I have. I came away with a far greater appreciation of life. I really hope that more people will be going on the programme. I would thoroughly recommend it. To be able to use my professional skills to help make the world a better place, even in a small way, was a fantastic experience. Absolutely life-changing. ”

A member of the Financial Services team, Clermont Holdings



Oliver Parker (fourth from right) worked with the finance team of Living Goods during his field service experience

Kenya, May 2016.

Testimonies

Oliver Parker

“ Spending time in the field, outside of my regular routine, gave me the opportunity to reflect more deeply on my purpose and contribution. The people whom I have met have inspired me to want to give more of myself. I felt an incredible amount of admiration for these people who have decided to dedicate their lives to serving others. The Field Service Programme has activated my own desire to enact more of a positive change in the world. ”

Previously a Vice President with Clermont Holdings



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