

## IHM Transformation Outreach

Founding principles and beliefs of IHM Transformation Outreach:

We understand that poverty:

- Is more than material deprivation.
- Manifests itself in physical, social, mental and spiritual areas; therefore efforts to reduce poverty should take place within all these areas.
- Is inherently relational, and that the relational building blocks of life are:
  - With God;
  - With self;
  - With others; and
  - With the rest of creation.
- Is the result of relationships that do not work. That are:
  - Not just;
  - Not for life; and
  - Not harmonious or enjoyable.
- Is the absence of peace, harmony, wholeness, and completeness.

We believe that:

- All humans are poor in the sense of relationships that are broken.
- By embracing our mutual brokenness we will affirm the dignity of all, and
  - Bring those on the margins into kinship;
  - Work **with** them rather than **for** them; and
  - Transform ourselves as well as others.

We will develop outreach that transforms by:

- Engaging in a process that helps those in a partner community:
  - Clarify what really matters to them;
  - Determine their qualities and strengths;
  - Develop a sense of ownership, accountability and leadership;
  - Establish solutions that lead to sustainability; and
- Whenever practical, engage the partner community in planning activities and programs for mutual benefit.
- Making building relationships at least as important as “getting things done”.
- Being a model of working civilly and respectfully through differences of opinion.
- Planning within each program time for all participants to get to know each other socially.
- Including prayer at appropriate times.
- Taking time for reflection both before and after each outreach experience. Ask “Why?” to start to understand systemic issues.

References:

Corbett, Steve & Fikkert, Brian (2009, 2012). “When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself”. Moody Publishers, Chicago.

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Boyle, Fr. Gregory (2017). “Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship”. Simon and Schuster, New York, NY