

# ACTIVEH (Action Toward Initiatives & Volunteering for Education in Haiti)

## Background

Action Toward Initiatives and Volunteering for Education in Haiti (ACTIVEH) is a non-profit organization located in Port-au-Prince, Haiti founded in November 2011 by three Haitian students. ACTIVEH's stated mission is to harness the passion and potential of students from different universities as a force of change for Haiti and the ambition to develop professional internships and good-will volunteer opportunities for community-development programs in Haiti.

ACTIVEH was founded to address weaknesses in Haiti's higher education system. First, Haitian universities offer students few, if any, opportunities to contribute to community and volunteer activities despite students' high energy and potential. In the classroom, teaching methods focus more on theories than the realities of the communities and therefore fail to involve students in real-world problem solving and activities that allow them to participate in the development of their communities. Second, university students in Haiti have limited access to practical experience to supplement their classroom education and prepare them to enter the workforce.

To address these challenges ACTIVEH has three major programs:

- a) The Volunteering and Community Service Program: ACTIVEH recruits students from licensed Haitian universities, on a membership basis, and offers members opportunity to engage in a range of leadership, personal and professional development activities that can make them better professionals and trigger their commitment to work for their communities and Haiti as a whole. Launched in 2014, ACTIVEH has already recruited 250 students from 10 universities in Haiti, who now work on a variety of projects: mentorship and tutoring for secondary students, critical thinking activities with primary school students in disadvantaged areas, environmental education and urban reforestation campaign for youth, basic care and cleaning services for elderly and people with disabilities, etc.
- b) The Internship Program: Each year, ACTIVEH contacts for-profit and nonprofit institutions across Haiti to identify internship opportunities that can allow Haitian college students to gain practical experience to complement their studies. This program was initiated in summer 2013 with a pilot phase where 10 students were placed in internship. ACTIVEH placed more than 150 students in internship in 7 of the 10 Haiti's geographical departments during the three following years.
- c) The Leadership and Professional Development Program: Through this program, ACTIVEH complements students' university curriculum by providing additional training on workforce preparation, leadership, group dynamics, entrepreneurship, management principles, etc. necessary for them to reach their full potential and be more competitive on the market place. Initiated in 2015, ACTIVEH develops annually a training plan including mandatory free courses for all its members and optional modules available to members and other professional for a small fee. Over 500 participants attended the training sessions in 2016.

Geographical level

National

Location

Caribbean

Country

Haiti

Type of organisation

Civil Society Organisation

Area of interest

Higher Education

Climate Change and Environment

Economy and Sustainable Development

Gender



Geolocation

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