

Josh Mangelson 00:17

Welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. This podcast explores the unique spiritual and theological gifts Community of Christ offers for today's world.

Carla Long 00:33

Hello, and welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. I'm your host, Carla Long. And today I'm here with a special guest talking about an organization that is and has been close to my heart for many years. Welcome Andrea Read, who will be speaking about Outreach International. Thank you so much for being on the show. Hello.

Andrea Read 00:54

Hi, Carla. It's so good to be with you.

Carla Long

It is wonderful to have you. So, tell us a little bit about yourself and what you do for Outreach International.

Andrea Read

Yeah. So um, I currently live in Independence, Missouri, but I actually grew up in Spokane, Washington. So, I'm a bit of a Northwest girl. Grew up as a member of Community of Christ, what was the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Had a fantastic congregation and community there that nurtured me as a child and into a young adult and really fostered an interest in peace and justice issues, but also kind of my artistic side. So, I actually went to school for architecture, worked in the architecture industry anyway, for about four years in Seattle. And I left that work shortly after the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, to support the work of Ally in Community of Christ there in Haiti with some of the rebuilding efforts there. So, for a short time, this was, like 2000, late 2010 to 2012 or so, I actually worked for both organizations, for Community of Christ and for Outreach International. They have, both have a shared interest and a historical relationship there in Haiti with all the schools that are supported through congregations, Community of Christ congregations in Haiti, and many of which were affected by the earthquake. So, I was very privileged to be a part of a lot of the great work that happened there. And some that was quite difficult, but ultimately, brought about, I think, some, some good change and transformation of some of those spaces for children. But the kind of long story behind it is it really brought me to the position that I have now, which is serving as the Director of Field Operations at Outreach. So, I began working full time with them shortly into 2012. And so now, I am full-fledged working with all of our field programs of Outreach International. So sometimes called OI, or Outreach, you might hear me say that throughout, so.

Carla Long 03:21

That is huge. That's a really big job. And here's a really quick question. Do you find that being an architecture major has helped you in this job?

Andrea Read 03:31

Um, you know, I feel like early on a bit, but I will say I, I don't do a lot of architecture now. So, I've kind of made a full-fledged shift, and really kind of have lived into being trained on the job in many respects, for this work, and I had incredible mentoring from the infamous Dr. Dennis Labayen who kind of was a part of the early founding of Outreach International. And so yeah, not much architecture.

Carla Long 04:06

Oh, that's too bad. But Dennis Labayen. I mean, he is amazing. I've always been a major fan of his.

Andrea Read 04:12

Yeah, he sure is.

Carla Long 04:14

So, tell us a little bit about what OI is. Tell us about Outreach International and what you do, and you know, how long it's been around and all that stuff.

Andrea Read 04:22

Absolutely. So, Outreach International is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that works currently in 10 different countries around the world. The Philippines, India and Nepal. Now Cambodia, Malawi, Zambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Haiti, of course. So, addressing rural poverty and generational poverty. I think poverty can be defined in a lot of different ways. There's really the common definitions that we all think of when people are suffering from a lack of basic needs and. But we at Outreach actually, we also define it as a lack of really participation in one's own development. So, when people feel that their voices are not heard, when they honestly don't have the self-esteem or the confidence to take action to improve their own lives, we also see that as poverty as well. So, we use a unique approach to international community development, it's participatory, which really means that those living in poverty are the primary actors in their own development. We at Outreach and our partners in the field and on the ground in our communities, those were the facilitators really. So, I think to get back to the history maybe a little bit more, back in 1972, Charles Neff, who was an apostle for Community of Christ, or formerly the RLDS church, he established a nonprofit organization in the Philippines called Community One Resource Development Incorporated, what we now called CORD, which still is an active ministry of Community of Christ in the Philippines. But through his kind of early work there really became inspired by the methodology of helping people help their own communities, which was really strongly influenced by Saul Alinsky and Paolo Freire and the philosophies that he learned from the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction. In 73, Outreach Incorporated was formed and organized by Charles Neff and Roy Schaefer and Bill Higdon. So that's when kind of Outreach began to kind of take shape outside of the Philippines a bit. But it wasn't until April 23, 1979, so we just had our 40th birthday, that's when Outreach International became its own registered and self-sustaining organization. So, we are celebrating 40 years of human centered community development work.

Carla Long 07:18

Oh, that's awesome. So, 40 years, that's a, that's a pretty big deal. What did you do anything special to celebrate last month?

Andrea Read 07:24

We actually because we were celebrating in April, it's the same month and time as the Community of Christ World Conference that took place, and so we had the great opportunity to celebrate with many of the people, very generous folks that have been with us since the very beginning of Outreach International. We were able to have a little party or reception to celebrate with all of them. And we also have had a few other events, too. It's mostly just been time to really lift up the generous support of our donors, our supporters, but then also our local facilitators, the, we call them human development facilitators, our core field staff that are the ones in the community doing our important work. And I always feel so privileged to be a part of not only a part of Community of Christ, but a part of Outreach International, and really feel like the work of Outreach is kind of putting my own faith and beliefs into action. Like as, as a Christian, I feel so privileged to be able to work with these facilitators that are living side by side with the people in the community, in the communities where we really are there to serve. And I really do believe that those facilitators are, our staff there, are the hands and feet of Jesus, living with and loving and advocating for the most vulnerable.

Carla Long 08:59

I am totally with you on that. You know, there are some people, and it's not a bad thing to think this I don't think, but there's two different ways to live your life. Oh, there's a lot of ways to live your life but two that I want to talk about. One is to like find a job where you can live your purpose. And two is to find a job where you get paid enough so you can live your purpose outside of work hours. And I agree with you, I love my job and I feel like my purpose, I find my purpose within my job. So, I think it's really special when you can find something like that. And you know, a third of your life or eight hours of the day or however many hours a day you work, you get to actually live your purpose and get paid for it. I mean, what a joy that is.

Andrea Read 09:40

Yeah, it's the definition of happiness, I gotta tell you.

Carla Long 09:43

And hey, I'm with ya. So, I definitely want to talk more about the participatory human development and maybe you can talk to me about what that is and how you, how OI helps facilitate that. I also want you to tell me, you can tell me in whichever order you want, what the Director of Field Operations actually does. So yeah, choose to answer either of those questions.

Andrea Read 10:05

So, I think I'll start with the process itself. It's, in a lot of ways we really struggle at Outreach sometimes to be like, have our 30 second elevator speech, you know. To, to really get to the core of what Outreach does and how we do it. Because PHD as we call it, Participatory Human Development, it's a nine-step process that our facilitators kind of circulate through as kind of experiential learning with the community. And what it really is all about, at the core of it, is providing opportunity and inviting people in the community to be a part of groups. And it starts off very informal groups and they begin to kind of discuss and identify the issues that that people in the community are starting to feel affected, affected

by or have been affected by for most of their lives. They then begin to prioritize those issues and slowly start to actually discuss what kind of actions they can take as a group to address and solve some of those issues. And really, it's through action. I mean, what sometimes we would refer to as like trial and error, I mean, this group is going to step out in faith and take action, maybe go to their local governments, their local municipalities. We often refer to those as mobilizations, that people mobilize to resource institutions or their governments to try to access resources to address the issues that are, that they're being faced by. And then, really what rounds out our process is taking time to evaluate and reflect on those actions. And so, we always kind of think, I mean, if any of us in life are kind of taking action, or have a presentation, or are doing our work, and we have this big event that we're working on, if we don't actually take time to, to sit down and evaluate how that that event or that presentation or that action that we took, how did it go? What good things happened? What less than good things happened, that we really maybe should have done differently? And then reflect like, how did this experience impact me as a person? How did this experience maybe change the way that I think about my own situation? How did the experience maybe affect how I will address future experiences in my life? That's when those actions and the experiences actually become a part of who we are rather than become distant memories. And so that's when the real transformation, I believe, is happening is in those later stages of the process. And so those, that cycle is something that's gone through time after time, in the lifespan of a facilitators time in a community. And ultimately they're spending about anywhere from, I think the fastest that we've been able to move through and really develop a mature group that can sustain itself after we leave, is about three years, that's the fastest. But really, it can sometimes take up to seven plus years to really develop and empower those groups to feel self-sustaining.

Carla Long 13:42

Yeah. Go ahead. Sorry.

Andrea Read 13:45

No, no, that's that's kind of, that's it?

Carla Long 13:47

Well, I'm I mean, it's a lot. I remember, and correct me if I'm wrong because I don't know a lot about this, but I remember reading the book Toxic Change, Toxic, I think

Andrea Read 13:57

Toxic Charity, yeah.

Carla Long 13:58

Toxic Charity. Yeah, that's it. Toxic Charity. And, and, and that's exactly what it advocated for was people who, who had the means and who had the know how move into places that had systemic poverty and helped to change it in that way. And that was the only way it was going to ever do anything. Is that what you read to in Toxic Charity? Is that one of your books that you use sometimes?

Andrea Read 14:24

Yeah, actually, it's one of the numerous kind of resources that we list on our website as kind of learning a little bit more about what we try to do anyway, in our work. You know, Poverty, Inc, is also another, I think it's actually on Netflix, it's a great film that kind of encapsulates what, what we really need to be doing to address systemic poverty. And it does come down to, I always struggled with saying like we empower people to address their issues of poverty, because it's really not about us, it's really about tapping into the power that's already in people. It's inviting them to actually recognize the power that they have to, to address the issues in their life and be a part of their own development. And often when we just come in with projects alone, they're not really given that that opportunity to participate in the same way. And it's not to say that the projects are not important, because they really are, they're a part of the process itself. If you're not addressing issues, then what are we actually doing to make their lives better, aside from maybe giving them opportunity to be a part of things, they really need to be addressing issues as well. So, the projects are still extremely important, it's just the approach is important, too.

Carla Long 15:48

Absolutely. Like, okay, you can correct me if I'm wrong, but I remember this from when I did World Service Corps in the Philippines in like, 2001. Somebody from Outreach International, I don't even remember who, came to speak to us. We're almost 20, this is almost 20 years ago. So, he said he told the story about, and again, you can correct me if I mess this up, but he said that this is an example of participatory human development. He, they went into a very poor village, I don't even remember where, but this is a place of like no clean water, people were starving, it was a really bad situation. And they went in and said, you know, what needs to be done here? Like, what do you think needs to be done? And they're like, we have so many dogs, we think we need to spay and neuter all the dogs. Yeah. Yeah. The guy, the OI worker was like, okay, well, what do we need to do to make sure we get rid of these dogs or help these dogs? So, you know, like they wrote letters, they got a grant, they spayed or neutered all the dogs. And I mean, again, these people did not have clean water. And then after that, they're like, oh, what should we do next? They're like, you know what, we think that we should work on the water problem. Well, that's a great idea. So, you know, like, they had so much confidence after like getting the, the dogs taken care of that they actually. And I just love that story. I think it's a really important story to that helps, you know, people be like, hey, you know what, we could actually do something. You know, we don't have to stay in this place. So, I don't know if that's a good example or a bad example, but I still remember it from 20 years ago.

Andrea Read 17:17

Yeah, no, it's a perfect example. In fact, it's one of the things that I absolutely love about what we do. It's not we, I like to say that we are not experts when it comes to the projects because of exactly what you just said. Like we, in our communities, we work toward everything from spaying and neutering dogs, and smokeless stoves, composting, latrines, rice loans; like so many different types of projects that really are kind of like, we're jumping in, we're going to try and see, make sure that this, hopefully it works. And next time, if it doesn't work, the next time it'll get better. But what we really are experts in is the process and how to really empower people and sustain the work that they're going to be doing long term.

Carla Long 18:06

Which is so, so important. So important. I don't know what went on to happen to that village, but I know that they were successful in getting clean water. And you know, so that's a huge step in the right direction.

Andrea Read

Yeah.

Carla Long

Oh, well, I'm so grateful that we have people like you working at OI. This is really exciting. So again, you're gonna tell me what the Director of Field Operations actually does?

Andrea Read 18:30

Yeah. So, Director of Field Operations is really, I help oversee all of the field programs and field work of Outreach International. Very privileged to do so. And I do that with a great team of other great women, actually, at our headquarters office, that are working daily and interacting with our field teams. And really, on a daily basis we'll come into various challenges in the field work. It may be more operational, it might be finance related, it may be with the process itself. And so, we kind of are there to support them and put them in contact with the people that they need to access what they need to get the job done. So, every day is a little bit different whether it's addressing a new project proposal or meeting to strategize about how we at Outreach can be more a part of the international development kind of community. We are growing, the last few years we've been growing significantly, so we're starting to strategize more about how we can influence other organizations and work to partner more with the big-name organizations out there that are doing equally wonderful work, but how we can help one another to address this global challenge. So, a lot of strategic discussions and planning and things like that.

Carla Long 20:15

Yes. I remember seeing Outreach International's logo on, you know how you kind of flip through coupons sometimes when it comes into your mailbox? I was flipping through and Dial soap was having a hand washing challenge. And I happened to glance down, and it was Outreach International that had partnered with Dial soap. I was blown away. I think I took a picture of it, put it on Facebook, cuz I was so very impressed.

Andrea Read 20:38

Yeah, yeah. So, we, it was such a great little opportunity there to partner with them and got a lot of recognition and visibility through that. It was fabulous.

Carla Long 20:51

That was very cool. So, I kind of want to get into a little bit more of like, the traveling that you've done, and like some stories about Outreach International, besides the neutering dog story I already told, of course.

Andrea Read

Yeah.

Carla Long

It's just it's not often when I could say the word neuter on a podcast, so I appreciate being able to say it four times now. So where have you gone? And tell us, can you tell some cool stories about what you've seen and what you've done and what you've heard and all that good stuff?

Andrea Read 21:19

Absolutely. So, I actually, on my most recent trip, we just got back in February actually, was to the Philippines. So, where everything with OI began. I've been many times now but it's always so enlightening and kind of energizing to get back to the Philippines with our team there, because they're so integral to who we are, and really helped shape and form a lot of our other field staff actually working around the world, they are instrumental in supporting other teams. But during my most recent visit, it was fun to actually visit some of our communities where we really aren't working much anymore. So, I spent some time in one community, we call those phase out communities where they're really kind of self-sufficient. The group in this community of San Bonifacio, we worked there, I believe, during the early 2000s, were there for about four or five years. And they're still working to steadily address issues related to food security during their lean months of the year when income is really less consistent, and they've accessed improved sanitary latrines, since we left as well, so got to visit some of the great toilets that they had there. But more importantly, it's just, it's so incredible to meet, and it's, honestly, it's mostly women that are sustaining the groups in these communities, so many of which actually have become more involved in the larger communities surrounding their villages. So, one woman in particular that I met actually became an elected official in in her local municipality. And so, it's kind of amazing to watch how these individuals will come and begin getting involved with our groups, and kind of slowly begin to realize the capacity and the leadership capabilities that they have and start to tap in and cultivate those opportunities and then become the front runner leaders for their larger community. And they become really enabling, listening leaders just naturally having gone through the process that we have. So, it was cool to meet those women in San Bonifacio. But I actually did want to tell you more about in a community called Villa Corazon in northern Luzon in the Philippines. It's very similar to San Bonifacio, in that it's a phase out community, but there's two pretty incredible men, Marvin and Larry, both leaders of the association that is now registered in Villa Corazon as a result of the work of our Outreach Philippines team there, and they had worked for years as their own group. They have addressed issues of poor irrigation systems. They developed a daycare center, actually, for a lot of the children in the area where when parents need to go off and work in the fields, they have a place where they can leave the kids. They have a new clean water facility actually with a large gravity-fed tank that feeds, and access points throughout that feeds the community. Numerous income-generating opportunities and projects that they've kind of cultivated over the years. What's really cool is, Marvin and Larry have become kind of integral and known in the area and a neighboring community called Villa TJ. About like five years ago or so they started to actually come and visit Villa Corazon. And they would go to talk to Larry and to Marvin and they would kind of say, well, you guys have all these great things going on here, how can we get that? Like, how can we get some of these same great things in Villa TJ? And so, Marvin and Larry kind of took it upon themselves to literally begin to facilitate a group in Villa TJ. So, they became facilitators, even though they didn't really go through the training that we provide for our Outreach Philippines teams or other teams working around the world, they had just gone through their own experience of developing their group in Villa Corazon. And from what they

learned, through that experience and those many years, they were able to actually facilitate this group in Villa TJ, that is now its own registered organization, that they're working to do these incredible things in Villa TJ, including improving a 12-kilometer road for farmers to be able to get to and from the markets to sell their goods. They've accessed seeds and agricultural inputs to improve the outputs of their farms, their land. So with all of the great work in Villa TJ and in Villa Corazon, it's been remarkable to actually spend time with Marvin and Larry and hear about the stories of their work and the things that they've learned and the victories that they've been able to celebrate both for their own community, but then also for now the new friends in the neighboring community of Villa TJ that they have been able to be a part of. It's just an incredible thing to recognize that the work that's being done can actually replicate and spread in the way that we always dreamed of in many respects. We never would have thought that it could be this incredible and grow so beautifully. So anyway.

Carla Long 27:53

This is exactly what you want to happen, right? This is exactly what, I mean this is it. That's it. That's a perfect example of what we're hoping will happen or you are hoping will happen.

Andrea Read 28:03

Absolutely. Yep. Yep.

Carla Long 28:08

So those are awesome stories. And of course, I love that you're talking about the Philippines. I only lived in the Philippines for six months, but I have a deep and abiding love for the Philippines and for the people there. The people of the Philippines, and because I worked with Filipinos in Madrid and Spain, too, they're some of the most hospitable people on the planet, I think. They're just so kind and loving and wonderful. So, I just I love that you love going there, too.

Andrea Read 28:33

Oh, absolutely. Yeah.

Carla Long 28:37

And the food, the pancit and the Shanghai rolls. Oh, I missed it. And they, Chicken Adobo. Oh, that's my favorite.

Andrea Read

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

Carla Long

Good stuff. So um, any other places that you want to talk about? Or some of your, maybe another cool place that you've visited? How's Cambodia? Have you been to Cambodia yet?

Andrea Read 28:56

So that's actually exactly what I was going to share. So, on this last trip to the Philippines, I also spent some time in Cambodia. And it was, so it was back in January 2018, that our first Cambodia field

program officially launched. We're working with two partners there. And so, over the last few years, I've spent considerable time in Cambodia kind of working to meet other organizations and we kind of joke about it being like almost like recording each other. It's very much like dating, you have to really get to know this other organization and appreciate what they do, learn about them, where they come from, what kind of guides them in life and in their work. And the same goes for us. We share the same about ourselves. And then if we want to meet again, we do and we continue to date and eventually we actually decide, oh, well I think we might want to actually get married here. And more officially become partners. And so, we actually were very fortunate to find two organizations to be able to do that with in Cambodia. And they got started, like I said, in January of last year. And so, this was the first time I've been back since they really have gotten things off the ground. I was there a lot in the early time before then, but this was the first to really see some incredible changes in such a short time. One of our partners is an organization called HURREDO. We have three HDF's working with their team, one of which I have grown to appreciate greatly. His name is Sopha and he's a community worker who has really done this kind of work, I would say, for decades, but he has used a little different approach. So, he worked for the government, and he's worked for other organizations before HURREDO that really follow more of a traditional community development approach, it's really about project delivery. And so going through the training of PHD it's been remarkable to hear his own reflections about how taking more of a participatory approach and working side by side with the people and providing them the opportunity to actually be the ones to bring projects to themselves, has just been remarkable, because he himself has talked about his own transformation and just thinking differently about how we approach these issues of poverty in a much more sustainable way. So, it was great to spend some more time with Sopha and his team and see some of the great things that have been happening there. But on a more personal note, I mean, Cambodia is just such an incredible place, the culture, the people, the food, I mean it's all so vibrant and rich. And honestly, it's been kind of sobering to realize and learn how far this country and the people that live there have come in such a short time from the very dark, recent past that they have lived through. So, the genocide that affected the entire nation really is still present, I mean, the hurt, and the loss that was experienced during those years is still very present. But it's just remarkable, the hospitality, the warmth, the kindness that comes through, which you wouldn't expect, honestly, extended towards strangers, when you recognize what they went through so recently. So, it's been quite a gift to be able to spend time in such a beautiful place with so much to learn from.

Carla Long 33:11

That sounds incredible. And what an opportunity for them and for you.

Andrea Read

Yeah.

Carla Long

How very cool. Well, it just sounds, you know, we talked a little bit about this at the beginning, that it kind of sounds a little bit like a dream job. I know, it's difficult. And I know that probably your heart is probably torn up on a daily basis. But I do want to ask what are some of the highlights of what you do? And what are some of the challenges of what you do?

Andrea Read 33:43

So, the highlights are definitely those moments like spending with Sopha and Marvin and Larry. But I will say to even getting the opportunity to work with some of my colleagues at our headquarters office, it's really a blessing to be in a work environment where everyone is motivated by making the world a better place. And being a part of discussions that are really about what can we be doing to make us better, too. Like, it's not only about increasing giving, and it's not only about supporting our field staff with their HR needs, but it's really more about what can we be doing better to ensure that we're reaching more people and providing them more opportunities to live their full, full lives? The challenges really are more, I mean, in any work environment there are going to be challenges, obviously, but the ones that we face are more about the things that just naturally happen. I mean, when I was mentioning HR concerns before, I mean challenges with staff. Sometimes we have to kind of work to support our local leaders and our partners, our partner organizations anyway, to ensure that staff are trained well, and it can sometimes be challenging to recognize when maybe there are individuals that just can't quite deliver in the same way as other facilitators. We've learned that it takes a very, very special individual with certain attitudes and skill sets to be able to be a Human Development facilitator. Someone who's willing to kind of set aside their own agenda, their own intent, their own, often even just ego, just setting aside all of that, and being able to kind of step into the unknown and introduce themselves to strangers in a community and become friends and sometimes even chosen family with people over years of work. And it takes a very special individual to be able to do that. So sometimes the challenge is just finding those folks to be able to do that.

Carla Long 36:19

I can imagine. It would be, it would be so difficult, what would you say three years was the fastest and up to seven years? I mean, it would take a very selfless individual to do that. So, thanks for saying that. I know that it can't always be easy, but it just sounds like you're doing such incredible work. And I'm so grateful that you are. So, are there any changes coming up for Outreach in the future? Anything that you know of?

Andrea Read 36:45

Well, so, um, in the last five years we've grown pretty significantly. So, we are now working in 130% more communities than we were just five years ago.

Carla Long

That's incredible.

Andrea Read

Yeah, nearly tripled in scope. So at least on the more immediate horizon we are really working to strengthen and maintain that scope. So, because we grew so quickly, we really want to spend some time kind of caring for and sustaining our teams, ensuring that the work that we've scaled up can actually sustain itself. I mean, we're really working hard to make sure that all that work remains strong and consistent as it has in the past. But that said, we still, and that's all really in many ways to prepare for future growth. We have some plans for the next three years; we'd like to continue to grow and have some goals of increasing by another 30%. Some of the communities we were working. So yeah, that's kind of our longer-term focus for now. And like I said before, we're also trying to partner more and more

with other organizations and finding ways of advocating more for the work that we're doing in and stepping out in faith, even as consultants maybe to support with some of the things that we specialize in with our process and helping other organizations become stronger, too.

Carla Long 38:32

How incredible. That's wonderful. One of my last questions is, and I think this is an important one, is how does Outreach International fund all of these incredible projects that are happening all over the world?

Andrea Read 38:45

Yeah. So, we are incredibly fortunate. So, the financial support to OI and our work comes from generous individuals, groups, congregations that believe in the work that we do. There are other organizations out there that work hard to get grants and access resources through governments and things like that. We are fortunate enough that we don't yet have to try to get that because we have such a vast and generous base of donors that have been with us for so long. And it's not to say that we're not looking for other opportunities out there, we absolutely are, but the bulk of our support comes from individuals. And a majority of charities, too, I've learned over the last few years, have a difficult time retaining and sustaining donors. So, the average organization has a donor retention of 46%. But our incredible supporters at OI, 96% of them are giving consistently and regularly.

Carla Long

Wow.

Andrea Read

I know, right? So, we feel incredibly grateful for that because, too, like I was mentioning before, the other organizations that go after more kind of government grants and things like that, there are tons of strings attached to that kind of money and they expect their own kind of agendas to be met, which kind of begins to limit what we can do with PHD and with the communities themselves kind of leading where they go with the projects that they work on. And so, our generous donors that give and believe in what we do, are providing that opportunity for the people in the communities themselves to be a part of, to be a part of it. So.

Carla Long 40:51

Well, that's incredible. And I'm not ashamed to say I have been a supporter of Outreach International for a long time, and I get these cool pins in the mail that shows how much money I've given. And I'm very proud of it, I have to say.

Andrea Read 41:03

Well, I am so thankful, Carla, that you have been such a generous supporter.

Carla Long 41:08

I'm glad to be part of the 96%. And I love knowing that my money is going to places that are helping people hopefully pull themselves out of poverty. You know, teaching them how to fish. That's, that's fantastic. So, well, thank you so much for being on this podcast and for letting us know all the cool

things that Outreach International does. So how do people learn more about Outreach International on their own? Yeah, of course, you have a website, how do we find it?

Andrea Read 41:37

Yeah, so our website is www.outreach-international.org. You can find out a ton more about us there. You can also find us, some supporters, when they're looking for organizations to give to, like to check out Charity Navigator. We currently are ranked number 18 out of 393 international development organizations. And there's a lot of information there, too, about how we manage our organization. There's a lot of scoring related to transparency and financial kind of approaches and things. So, it's important to kind of do homework about how we're doing our work from our external evaluators. So, if you have any interest in checking us out there, too, it's Charity Navigator.

Carla Long 42:35

What a fantastic tip. And it's so true, because sometimes you give your money to somewhere and you just don't really know what your money's going to but knowing this helps me feel a lot more confident in you. Not that I wasn't confident in OI before. Well, thank you again, so much for being part of the podcast and for letting us know all the incredible things that Outreach International does. You're wonderful, and I appreciate you so much.

Andrea Read

Thank you so much, Carla, I really appreciate the opportunity and all the best to you, your family and all of your fabulous listeners. Thank you.

Carla Long

Thank you.

Josh Mangelson 43:18

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