

## Part IV Narrative Description of our Activities

Many of the abuses of humans against one another have been rooted in the belief that one people group is less human than another. For example, the historical treatment of Native Americans by the United States of America was fueled by a belief that the Native Americans were “savages”. Much of the media of the day made no effort to show the human qualities of the Native Americans. If Trystan Foundation had existed in that time, we would have lived in their villages and made every effort to produce meaningful material that shows they are equal and deserve equal consideration as humans and family.

The key area Trystan Foundation focuses on is bridging the gap between people groups that perceive a boundary between each other. This is where misunderstandings and negative energy can grow. Perceived boundaries come in many forms: skin tone, culture, language, geographic location, profession, hair length, income level, and many more. We attempt to start the conversation and facilitate a human connection. Our recent project is a good example. A family from rural America may view local Jamaica as a dangerous place and would only ever travel to Jamaica to stay in a tourist area. We bridged the gap by living among the locals for 3 months and conducting more than 65 interviews which are being prepared to be viewed by this theoretical American family using social media or one of our other mediums for transferring our local experience. They can sit in their own home and see a video of a local Jamaican explaining a childhood story, what they do for a living, or what their struggles are. This brings a connection between two humans- the American hears the voice and sees the face of someone they never would have interacted with (because they don't have the time or don't feel comfortable with taking a trip for that purpose). Other mediums include a film series, a series of “coffee table” books (from a selection of over 6000 photos taken on the trip), and podcasts.

The same idea can be applied for sub-groups within America. One upcoming project is to conduct a set of interviews and documentation in a part of Atlanta, GA that is perceived in a negative way and is inhabited by very low income families. Trystan Foundation is confident that there is both good and bad in all locations and we try to document a genuine picture of the area. We hope to show real people talking about real things in this area of Atlanta to create a connection between those who watch the interviews and those being interviewed.

In our experience, we have come across many people doing community development projects or other non-profit projects in their communities. We enjoy highlighting them and doing a type of promotion for their projects as we do our documentation. One example of this is our interest in an upcoming project to document a non-profit in Colorado that provides skiing lessons and help for people with disabilities and other challenges. They do rewarding work for the ski instructors involved and those learning to ski (sometimes in ways that include seated skis or sound devices for the blind).

Financially, Trystan Foundation is in a fledgling state of existence. There are many ideas for projects and currently I, the director, am funding the organization. I do not expect others to take a risk on this early concept. Now that we are in post-production editing for the first major project (3 months in Jamaica), we are producing a YouTube channel, a set of “coffee table” books, a film series, and a simple travel guide. We desire to provide much of the content for free to accomplish our goals of improving the perception of local Jamaicans, but we also intend to monetize some of the material to attempt to cover

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enough costs where a future project will be paid for from sales. The books and travel guide will be sold through multiple channels and the YouTube channel may be monetized with short ads. The film series will be sold as DVDs and streamed online, however, it will also be shown on some local community channels in various communities. We also intend to host local showings of the film in creative ways. We do not expect many direct donations initially, but we are aware of a few non-profit organizations that donate money for film productions. Once we get this first film finished, we will be able to show our style of material and apply for grants to create future films.

Agriculture connection: We also mention sustainable farming practices as part of our scope. It is very common to interact with many farming communities during documentation travels and as part of engaging with the community, we find it beneficial to share educational material and other help to communities which show interest in adopting more sustainable farming methods. Some areas are very secluded and do not have easy access to educational material so we can easily fill in the gap as part of our travel and ongoing relationship with these communities.

Below is a rough outline of our goals and the mediums we use to accomplish such goals.

- 1) Document and share the cultures, spirituality/religion, and stories of unique, under-represented, misunderstood, and valuable communities in order to “show the world to itself” and 2) Help humans relate to one another cross-culturally in the spirit of equality and interest
  - a) Video Interviews
    - i) YouTube Channel
    - ii) Film Series and Narration of Experiences with focus on locals’ interviews (speaking for themselves)
  - b) Photography
    - i) “Coffee Table” Photo Books of Portrait Photos and Scenery
  - c) Audio Interviews
    - i) Podcasts
  - d) Travel Guide Books
  - e) Library Archive Submissions
- 2) Preserve our direct account history through documentation
  - a) Video Interviews with people (especially elderly) that can discuss history and their direct account
- 3) Support the creation and strengthening of sustainable farming communities through education and infrastructure projects
  - a) Supply educational material to communities
  - b) Provide support with irrigation, cultivation, and erosion control projects.