



Crossroads
Foundation
國際十字路會



Welcome to Crossroads

Information about our work with
Educational Groups

歡迎蒞臨國際十字路會

Crossroads Foundation

Crossroads Village · 2 Castle Peak Road · Tuen Mun, Hong Kong

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www.crossroads.org.hk



WELCOME TO CROSSROADS!

We are so glad you'll be joining us at Crossroads Global Village.
Thank you for taking the journey with us!



What is Crossroads?

Crossroads Foundation is a Hong Kong based, non-profit organisation serving global need. Our goal is to be a 'crossroads' in a broken world, connecting people in need with those who can help. We do so through four services.

Global Distribution: Where need meets resource

We are donated excellent quality goods by business and private donors. We distribute these to people in need, in Hong Kong and around the world. [Read more.](#)

Global Hand: Partnering for a better world

Global Hand is a match-making service which links for-profit and non-profit organisations who want to partner to help meet global need. [Read more.](#)

Global X-perience: Stepping into another's shoes

We offer simulation x-periences in which participants step, briefly, 'into the shoes' of people facing global challenges: war, poverty, HIV vulnerability, blindness, environmental challenges, hunger, etc. [Read more.](#)

Global Handicrafts: Fair trade for a fairer world

Aid helps people today. An income helps them tomorrow. Global Handicrafts Marketplace sells goods from people in need within Hong Kong, and around the world, on a fair trade basis. [Read more.](#)



Crossroads' Global Distribution
環球分派中心



Crossroads' Global Hand
環球援手網絡



Crossroads' Global X-perience
環球X體驗



Crossroads' Global Handicrafts
環球工藝村

442,345 kg



goods saved from landfill

50% goods distributed internationally
50% goods distributed in **Hong Kong**

8,972 students

participated in X-periential learning programmes

75,540 community volunteer hours

Every HK\$1 donates HK\$9 worth of goods

71 schools volunteered with us

57 nations impacted through our work

Statistics from a typical non-COVID year

LIVES IMPACTED: 665,000

CHANGING THE WORLD: Transformational Service in Schools - an Overview

Why Partner with Crossroads?

Our world is, undeniably, in need, and addressing global issues can no longer fall simply into the hands of a few strained agencies. The world, as a whole, must respond.

Schools and colleges are rightly placing increasing emphasis on service, citizenship and developing a global mindset. Additionally, as they seek to equip young people with the tools to navigate an increasingly complex world, there is a deeper understanding of the importance of transferable skills, emotional intelligence and values-driven approaches.

We are also seeing young people becoming more and more engaged in worldwide issues, and the desire to act, but little guidance in education about how we can enable them to become real change-makers. We need to be empowering our students to play their part in bringing about change for those living in poverty, in a way that is strategic, sustainable and that leads to transformational service.

At Crossroads we offer programmes that give unique insights into key challenges facing the world at this moment and empower students to help others directly as well as finding out how they may best impact this world for good.

We also appreciate the challenges that schools and colleges can face in ensuring that learning about these topics is delivered to an excellent standard, and that it is taken seriously by all stakeholders. We therefore offer professional development tools, helping shape the ways schools approach, engage in, and, ultimately, teach, planet-changing service.

We understand that every school is different. We would be happy to work with you in identifying the best ways that Crossroads can engage with your context.

Pupils & Students

We offer a range of activities suitable for all ages, from a half-day to a 4 day programme. There are also remote/online options available for some activities.

TRANSFORMATION of HEARTS

To genuinely understand about how they can make a positive impact, individuals need to engage not only the head but also the heart. Crossroads' **Global X-perience Simulations** help students to gain insight into the lives of the people who receive our donated goods, strengthen their identity as a global citizen and move their hearts to serve the world we live in. More details on [pages 6-7](#).

HANDS taking ACTION

Students can make a tangible impact on the lives of those in need both in Hong Kong and around the world through volunteering on our site in Tuen Mun. You can read some real-life stories [here](#). Volunteers are vital to the work of our **Global Distribution** service. More details on [page 8](#).

Students can volunteer as a group or as individuals, regular or one-off. Many students fulfil their service hour requirements through volunteering at Crossroads. More details on [page 9](#). If you have fairs to promote volunteering opportunities, we would love to come along and introduce ourselves.

HEARTS and HANDS

Where learners experience both increasing empathy and make a practical difference: we call this 'X-perience & Serve'. This can be a one-day activity, but we can also offer multiple days to include a range of simulations or long term service projects. More details on [page 8](#).

INSPIRATION

Crossroads is able to occasionally send speakers for school assemblies and other events, as well as for conferences. They can share about our broader work, as well as encourage students to 'be the change' they want to see in this world. More details on [page 11](#).

Student Internships

Each year Crossroads welcomes two intakes of 30-40 students aged 17 and above for six-week internships that make a difference. Their work has an impact on communities in need here in Hong Kong and around the world.

Crossroads' interns take part in simulations and take action. They work alongside people from more than 20 nations, sharpening their skills through real-world work experience in an English-speaking environment. Roles available include: goods preparation for distribution, shipping, computing, our fair trade marketplace and café, communications, design, translation, administration, research, and running experiential simulation programmes.

We award students a certificate and a reference letter from Crossroads on completion of the internship programme, given at a celebratory party at the end of the internships. For many, though, the most valuable take-away can be new friendships, better workplace and language skills and a deeper understanding of how to help a world in need.

Many of our interns have made study and career choices based on their experiences here. Crossroads' interns are change-makers!

For more information and to apply for an internship, please visit this [webpage](#).

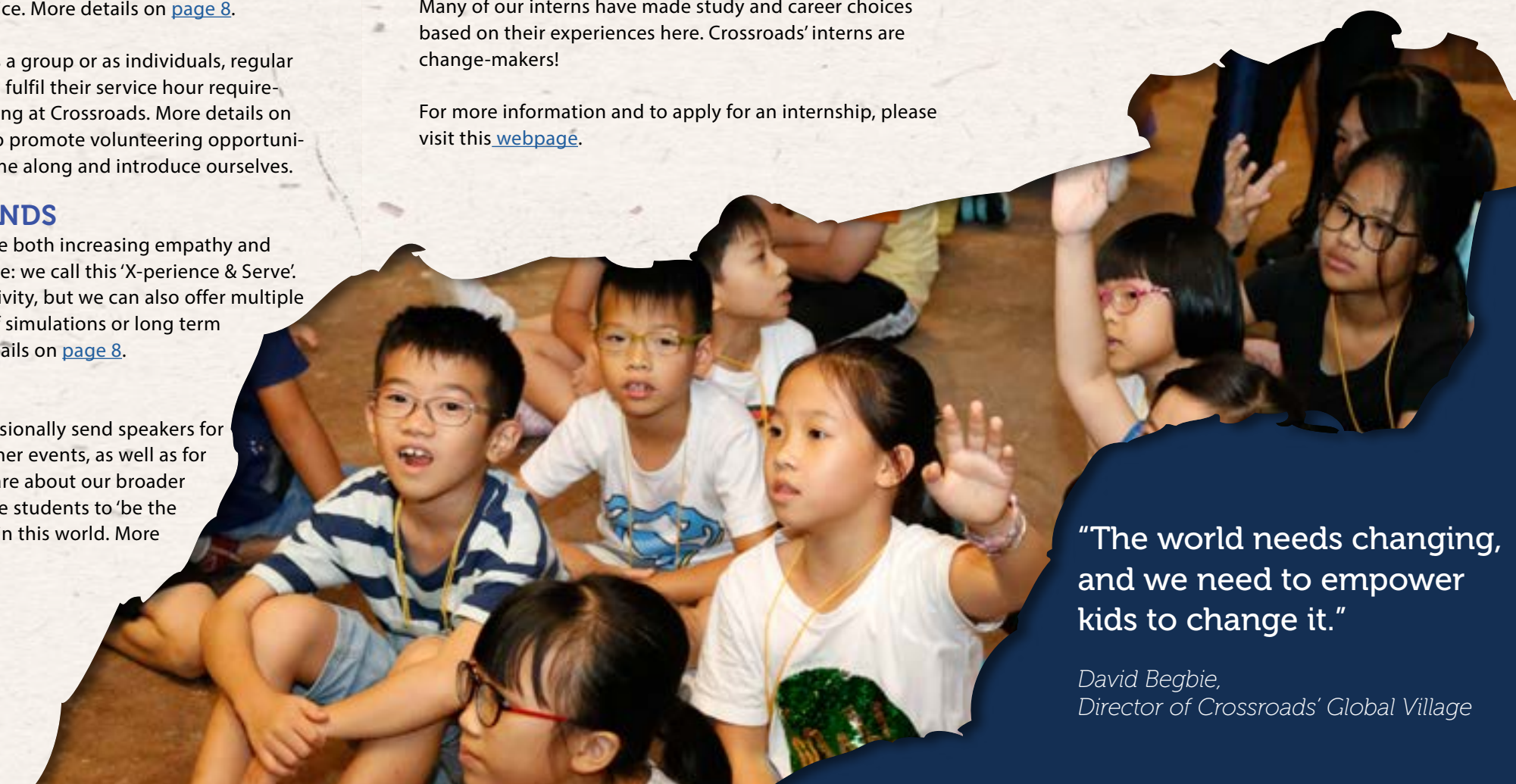
Professional Development

A key to effective global engagement starts with equipping educators and administrators with the resources they need to guide strategic and sustainable service for their students. To that end, Crossroads offers talks, professional development days, and staff-wide experiential programs, introducing the principles of best practice gleaned from working alongside schools around the world.

The overarching goal is to help these academic institutions master and internalize principles of best practice so that their service:

- may bring about justifiable, needed, and transformational change,
- will be sustainable, with a longevity of impact,
- will allow student to rightly discern world need and know how to use their own lives strategically to make a difference.

Our professional development sessions are typically 1 full day and run at our site in Tuen Mun, but we can bring them into schools. More details on [page 10](#).



"The world needs changing,
and we need to empower
kids to change it."

David Begbie,
Director of Crossroads' Global Village

Global X-perience Simulations

Below are the suggested ages for our simulations but we are more than happy to discuss adjusting our programme to suit your context.

Ages 5+

We often run programmes for primary schools and can handle groups of various sizes. We'd be happy to discuss your preferences.

Suggested timing: 09:45 - 13:00
Group size: 7 - 32+
Languages available: English, Cantonese

Village of Solutions

This simulation connects participants to the multi-faceted challenge of development, within the fictional village of Kalumbut. An aid agency has offered to find solutions to problems such as a local rubbish dump, lack of access to clean water, health issues and few kids attending the local school. In order to see these solutions bring change to the community as a whole, however, participants must demonstrate their ability to dialogue and work as a team.

Challenge of Water

This simulation brings to life the burden of gathering water shouldered by the 1.1 billion people who lack access to clean water, and invites participants to consider solutions to help address this issue.

Some Tonnes None

Participants must deal, first hand, with the unequal distribution of food on our planet. By the end of this exercise, they understand why hunger is, by far, the biggest killer in the world today.

Blind X-perience & Blindness Workshop

Blind X-perience: participants are led through an African village, in total darkness, by guides who are themselves blind. Without sight, participants will learn to navigate using

sound, touch and scent, and are invited to experience the creativity and extraordinary capabilities of the visually impaired.

Blindness Workshop: This workshop will help participants explore life without sight, as they engage their other senses to discover the world around them. Through fun and interactive games, participants will learn how visually impaired people navigate daily life, including opportunities to learn some Braille!

Ages 12+

Fair Trade Coffee Game

Participants engage in the supply chain issues that perpetuate the gap between rich and poor. Stimulating discussion invites all to look for alternatives.

Suggested timing: 09:45 - 12:00 or 12:45 - 16:00
Group size: 16 - 40
Languages available: English, Cantonese

Blind X-perience & AIDS X-perience

Blind X-perience: participants are led through an African village, in total darkness, by guides who are themselves blind. Without sight, participants will learn to navigate using sound, touch and scent, and are invited to experience the creativity and extraordinary capabilities of the visually impaired.

AIDS X-perience: Participants walk through the life of individuals who have come into contact with HIV/AIDS and, at the end, are 'tested' to see if they are positive. They live, in a simulated way, the realities of war, poverty, poor medical care, abusive treatment and wrong life choices.

Suggested timing: 09:45 - 13:00 or 12:45 - 17:00
Group size: 7 - 32
Languages available: English, Cantonese

"Humbling, inspiring, thought-provoking and motivating – a truly remarkable experience. Thank you!"

Jane Nelson, Director of Harvard Kennedy School's Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative

Ages 14+

Struggle for Survival

Participants try to earn enough to survive by making paper bags out of newspaper and home-made glue. They must earn enough to pay for rent, food, sanitation, medical needs and, if they are fortunate, education. Those that cannot make it end up in the hands of a loan shark. This simulation programme throws participants into the hopelessness and intricacy of the poverty web.

Suggested timing: 09:45 - 13:00 or 12:45 - 17:00
Group size: 24 - 100
Languages available: English

Programme Fees

The cost of these programmes ranges from 50 to 170 HKD per person, depending on the details of the package. Please [contact us](#) for a quotation.

Online Options

Although nothing can beat experiencing the simulations in real life, we do have an online version of the Fair Trade Coffee game. If you would like to know more about these, please [contact us](#) directly.

Ages 16+

Refugee Run

Participants face simulated attacks, mine fields where they may be 'injured', life in a refugee camp, hunger, illness, lack of education, corruption and uncertain shelter or safety. Participants may also be marched under guard, subjected to ambush and, ultimately, offered a chance of re-settlement where they must re-build their lives. The experience is co-developed with refugees, internally displaced persons and aid workers to create as realistic a scenario as possible and to target issues that need addressing by global leaders: ethnic conflict, weak legal infrastructure, corruption, disempowerment and frustration.

Due to the intense nature of this programme, we ask our participants to read and sign our Participation Agreement Form. We ask participants under 18 to have their forms signed by a parent or guardian.

Suggested timing: 09:45 - 13:00 or 12:45 - 17:00
Group size: 24 - 80
Languages available: English

Identity of Culture

The Identity of Culture, used as a part of Crossroads' humanitarian deployment training, provides a snap-shot into multiculturalism, diversity and cultural identity. The debrief offers key elements essential for effective engagement and service on the field.

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in booking this programme as an off-site activity, either at another location in Hong Kong or overseas.

Suggested timing: 09:45 - 13:00 or 12:45 - 17:00
Group size: 30 - 100
Languages available: English

Enquire about Booking a Simulation

Read Full Details of our Simulations



Group Volunteering (Age 12+)

We love welcoming student groups to visit and help out in various activities around our site! A group service day can be rewarding and fun. It is an opportunity for both inspiration and perspiration: a chance to learn more about people in need and to make a real difference in their lives. We can give you more details on what you can do at Crossroads and the impact that your group can make.

To ensure that everyone has a meaningful and productive day, our suggested maximum group size is 24. Students will be split into smaller groups and work in different departments. We have more than 10 different departments dealing with goods donations here at Crossroads. Some of the tasks involved include:

- **Sorting and packing donated goods:** This is the main task in our processing departments (e.g. toys, household goods, clothing, and book departments). Groups can also run [collection drives](#) for wanted goods.
- **Renovations:** Includes activities such as painting, gardening, landscaping and maintenance.
- **Heavy work:** The work involved in our shipping and furniture departments can often include heavy work (e.g. preparing furniture for shipments, loading containers, and unloading trucks).
Please note: We take pictures for all our container loadings for publication and feedback to sponsors. Notify us if you do not want your pictures taken when participating in loading a container.

Although volunteering is free, if you are not doing a simulation, we ask for a **refundable deposit** of 1500HKD for groups of 10 or more.

Suggested timings	Half day	09:45 - 12:00 or 12:45 - 17:00
	Whole day	09:45 - 17:00

X-perience & Serve (Age 14 +)

Many groups do what we call 'X-perience & Serve'. They spend part of their time in the Global X-perience programme and part in volunteering with Crossroads' needs. Not surprisingly, many find their community service much richer after a Global X-perience!

This can be a one-day activity or be extended for up to 4 days (Tuesday to Friday).

X-perience & Serve Week

A typical schedule for our full week is as follows and we are more than happy to discuss options.

Tues	AM	Introduction, Volunteering
	PM	Struggle for Survival Simulation
Weds	All day	Volunteering
Thurs	AM	Volunteering
	PM	Blind X-perience & AIDS X-perience
Fri	AM	Volunteering
	PM	Fair Trade Coffee Game Reflection & Goodbye

Group size: max. 24

Programme Fees

The cost of a one-day Sim & Service programme ranges from 50 to 170 HKD per person, depending on the details. The four-day programme costs 500 HKD per person. Please [contact us](#) for a quotation.

Individual Students (Age 14+)

It can sometimes feel like the planet we're bequeathing to our children is broken beyond repair, but when we see the passion and capability of kids that work with Crossroads, it fills us with hope.

Individual students are welcome to come regularly and earn student service certificates. They will receive a service certificate for 70 hours' volunteering and an advanced service certificate for 140. These are helpful for CVs and can be accredited towards many community service programmes such as the 'Hong Kong Award for Young People'. Your hours can be completed at times most convenient for you.

They should sign up using our [online form](#) then we will contact them directly about our orientation tour and booking volunteering slots.

You've done an X-perience - What Next...?

For more information and useful links about how you can take action and support those impacted by the needs that are revealed through our simulations, please visit the relevant [webpage for each X-perience](#) here.

For more general information where students can learn about global issues, here are a few possible starting points:

- [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#)
- [The World Economic Forum](#)
- [Responsible Business Alliance](#)
- [Fairtrade Schools](#)

What else can Students do?

The next generation of changemakers is out there, and Crossroads is partnering with them in all kinds of creative ways. We have seen schools running fundraisers and collection drives, students doing life-changing summer internships, classes inspired by our poverty simulations and children as young as 6 coming to us with their ideas on how to make a difference.

- Run a [fundraiser](#)
- Organise a [goods drive](#)
- Put together [disaster kits](#)
- [Book an inspiring speaker](#) for your school
- Join our summer [student internships](#) (age 17+)
- [Consult on service learning](#) for your curriculum
- [Donate Goods](#)

Book a Group Volunteering Session

Enquire about Sim & Service

Professional Development

A key to effective student engagement starts with equipping educators and administrators to guide strategic and sustainable opportunities for their students.

Many schools aspire for their service to be more impactful for students, integrated into the curriculum, and transformational for the planet. Based on over two decades of engaging schools in service projects, Crossroads has identified key strategies and principles that can help guide strategic service. Through the Professional Development days, we offer strategies and explorative next steps to schools, to assist in seeing students become, not just 'global citizens', but 'world changers.'

The following is a suggested outline for a day's programme:

Morning	Introduction
	Struggle for Survival Simulation
Lunch	Including discussion of
	Simulation experience
Afternoon	Trends in Service Learning
	Small Group Discussions
	Full Group debrief

Groups can be divided according to grade, subject or management roles, as appropriate to your context.

Application topics include:

- How might this issue fit within your class, grade level, or subject department? How could this message be strategically built and aligned over the years?
- How might this experience impact your thinking on upcoming field experiences, class trips, or other educational travel?
- What obstacles stand in the way of more meaningful involvement in service?
- Where do service or being an active global citizen intersect with the school's mission, vision, goals, strategic plan, learner profile, ESLRs, WASC or accreditation plan, etc.?
- Does the school currently align staffing, budget, financial resources and time with the priorities of service?
- How can the school administration address any gaps in priority and support for service/equipping students to make a difference?

Duration of Stay: when working with a school outside Hong Kong, we typically stay for 1-3 working days, and often combine a Professional Development Day for the staff with programming for students as well.

When working with a school in Hong Kong, we can offer half day or full day programmes.

Costs: please do contact us for pricing, as it can depend on what you have in mind and on your context.

Languages available: English



"Students were captivated by the speakers, participated with lots of passion during the discussion portion and had some great questions during the Q&A,"

Coordinating Teacher for a conference on global issues

Talks & Conferences

We have attended a wide range of school events and conferences over the years, both locally and internationally and have capacity to offer workshops, key-note speeches as well as our simulation programmes for conference attendees.

Costs: We encourage schools to give an honorarium towards our work for any talks given, and are happy to speak with you further regarding programming for a conference before giving you a quote.

Languages available: English

Enquire about
Professional Development

Enquire about
Talks & Conferences



SUMMARY

Opportunity		Suggested Age Range					Staff
		Age 5+	Age 12+	Age 14+	Age 16+	Age 17+	
Simulations	Village of Solutions	✓					
	Challenge of Water	✓					
	Some Tonnes None	✓					
	Blind X-perience & Workshop	✓					
	Fair Trade Coffee Game*		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Blind & AIDS X-perience		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Struggle for Survival			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Identity of Culture				✓	✓	✓
	Refugee Run				✓	✓	✓
Volunteer service				✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteer internship						✓	
Sim & Service Week				✓	✓	✓	✓
Long term service project				✓	✓	✓	✓
Talks at your school/college*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conferences*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
*Professional development *online options available							✓

Contact Us

More Information & Bookings

- Read more details about our [simulations](#)
- Make a booking [enquiry](#)
- Find out more details about [Volunteering](#)
- Review availability and [book](#) group volunteering

Queries?

- Please email us:
- [Sim & Service](#)
 - [Volunteering](#)
 - [Professional Development](#)
 - [Talks or Conferences](#)
 - [Making Donations](#)
 - [Engaging with Crossroads' work in any other way!](#)

Opening Hours & Location

Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am-5pm.
We are closed on Sunday, Monday and public holidays.

Crossroads Village
2 Castle Peak Road
Tuen Mun
HONG KONG
P: +852 2984 9309
F: +852 2771 1715

Find Google directions [here](#).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION & FAQ

Student Supervision

- For simulations we request a minimum of one teacher per 10 participants.
- For volunteering we request a minimum of one teacher per 8 participants. Students usually work in small groups and we rely on teachers to assist in supervising students while they are working. A ratio of one teacher per 6 participants is preferred for students under 14.
- May we also ask that the supervising teachers stay with the group throughout the activities, and are familiar with the students in their group? We find that when teachers are actively involved in both service and the simulations with their students, the teacher/student relationship can be greatly enriched, and the students' experience is better.

Lunch Arrangements

- Please make your own arrangements for lunch.
- The Gold Coast Shopping Mall is located across the street, and offers a wide selection of restaurants.
- You can also book one of our rooms ahead of time and order your own lunch or bring packed lunches.

What to bring?

- Clothing: Please do make sure each participant is wearing weather-appropriate clothing with closed-toe shoes. To respect the various cultures represented on site, we ask that clothing is appropriate with *no short shorts/miniskirts or spaghetti straps*.
- Mosquito repellent
- Sun/Rain protection, as needed
- Personal water bottle, which can be refilled at various stations around the site
- Some money for purchasing products in the Fair Trade Café and Shop (optional)

Weather

- **Wet weather:** we encourage volunteers to bring wet weather gear if rain is forecast, but unless advised otherwise, you will be based indoors if weather is wet.
- **Typhoon Policy:** Crossroads remains open during T1 and T3 Typhoon signals. When it is likely that a T8 or above signal will be hoisted, we will close. Additionally, we remain open during an Amber and Red Rainstorm, but close when a Black Rainstorm signal is hoisted.

Simulation Programme Fees & Booking

- Contact us for quotes for your desired activities.
- Our aim is to educate, increase empathy and empower young people and we do not want cost to be a barrier to this.
- Please check out our [Booking FAQ's](#) for details on the terms and conditions of your booking (including our cancellation and weather policy, and what happens if your numbers change).

Volunteering Refundable Deposit

If you are not doing a simulation, we ask for a refundable deposit of 1500HKD for groups of 10 or more. This will be forfeited if:

- your group cancels the booking less than 3 weeks before your service day.
- the size of your group changes by +/-5 or more people than what was originally booked.
- you make significant changes to the timing of your service day less than 3 weeks before your service day.

Additional Needs

Please advise us ahead of time if there are any participants in your group who

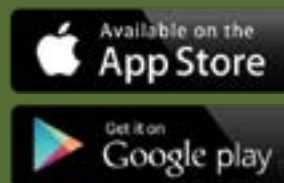
- have a food allergy, medical condition or other special needs that our facilitators should be aware of.
- have special educational needs, including participants with forms of autism, ADHD, etc. Please provide extra support for them as necessary.
- are wheelchair users, so that we can adapt the programme or volunteering tasks accordingly.



CONNECT DEEPER

If you want to deepen the impact of your visit, top it up with one of the following options.

For more information please contact engagement@crossroads.org.hk



Check out our [GoodCity App](#) for fast & easy donations of goods within Hong Kong!



Double your Impact – Donate Goods:

Would you like to donate goods located in Hong Kong or elsewhere in the world? We take high-quality goods and redistributes them to people in need, locally and internationally. We need a regular supply of all kind of goods. You can refer to our list of [“most needed items”](#) or just talk to us directly.

Run a Collection Drive

You can also organise a [“collection drive”](#). The items you collect can be a huge gift to the many families in Hong Kong who are living below the poverty line. For full information, please go to our website or contact us.



Partner with us on Donations

Regularly donate items such as furniture, stationery, and computer equipment that is no longer needed at your institution. [Contact us](#) for more details.

Set up a Computer-Twinning Scheme

When your students purchase a new computer or laptop, as well as donating their old one to Crossroads, why not donate towards the cost of refurbishing a computer for a child in need? [Contact us](#) for more details.



Support Fair Trade:

Do you want to empower people in poverty by buying their products? Global Handicrafts is offering you an opportunity to ‘shop with a purpose’ all year round. We are happy to open our shop for special group bookings or even bring our Handicrafts stall to your event.

Become a Sustaining Donor:

Your donations are the engine that allows Crossroads to help others. Become a sustaining donor, hold a fundraiser or make a corporate donation to help us cover our [financial needs](#).

Sponsor a Container

We load shipments almost every week to send around the world to support schools, hospitals, clinics, community centers, children’s homes, disaster relief efforts and more. Over the years many of the valuable items we have distributed have been donated by companies, including office furniture, medical equipment, computers, stationery, and many other unique products. Read more about [“sponsoring a container”](#) on our website or contact us directly.

YOUNG PEOPLE CHANGE LIVES!

No matter if you look at Hong Kong or around the world, engaging the hearts and hands of young people changes lives for those struggling with poverty, conflicts or disabilities. Here are some ways that students have responded to their experiences at Crossroads.



“HOME” SECONDARY STUDENT’S DRAMATIC X-PERIENCE

“I still vividly remember the beginning of the simulation... a group of ‘militants’ broke in, forcing us out of safety. At that moment I realised what I had signed up for. Frankly, it was terrifying.”

Gingin, a secondary student, undertook our simulation of the refugee crisis and, afterwards, told us how she found it. “Throughout the entire experience, the only thought I had in my head was: How are millions of people surviving through this living hell?”

Gingin was impacted so deeply by the ‘Refugee Run’ that she decided to channel her experience into a theatrical script. She called it, poignantly, ‘Home’. It tells of a young girl, Ola, who leaves her family in search of safety. “The plot reveals the raw pain of sacrifice,” says Gingin; “of restarting life and the loss that refugees face in the process.”

Undertaking the Refugee Run at Crossroads helped Gingin access the emotion and empathy with which she infused her play. “The authenticity of the simulation played a key role,” she says. “It allowed me to enrich my writing with personal experiences.”

‘Home’ was performed by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation: an extraordinary achievement for Gingin. Her classmates from Renaissance College were likewise moved to help and focussed on producing educational packs for us to use in our refugee work. We are deeply impressed by the difference students can make when they care about world issues. Gingin and her colleagues are proof positive.

“I WISH I COULD DO ANOTHER INTERNSHIP.” CHANGING PERSPECTIVES

“I wish I could do another internship. It’s an amazing 6 weeks. It went really fast but I think it changed my life.” Karl, Global X-perience intern

Crossroads has taught me that we do not need to be professionals like doctors and lawyers to make a difference. It is about having the heart to serve and wanting to make a difference that is most important. *Serena, Global Distribution intern*

It is my first time to work in a highly internationalized NGO. I think the most important thing that Crossroads has contributed to me is the invaluable opportunity of interacting with people with different nationalities and cultural backgrounds. *Ian, Hong Kong Distribution Intern*

I have realised that helping others can really make a huge change to the needy in the world. Crossroads makes me strengthen my thoughts on becoming a social worker in my life. I will like to contribute more to the society, and even the world. *Tsz In, Operations Intern*

FROM HONG KONG TO NEPAL RESPONDING TO THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

When Pankaj from Nepal took part in our Struggle for Survival X-perience back in 2010 with his university, he wasn’t expecting to learn much. “I remember telling myself this is for people who have lived all their life in a developed country. As I had seen poverty every day, I assumed I could empathise. I could not have been more wrong.”

The x-perience began to impact Pankaj, when, along with the group, he took on the persona of a slum-dweller. He had no option but to force his ‘children’ to work, and was confronted with the decision to ‘sell’ those children to survive. By the end, his empathy had deepened and, he said, his priorities changed.

Pankaj has since returned to his home country of Nepal. “I understood poverty as a web that traps one,” he says. “So I co-founded a start-up NGO, the Institute for Suitable Action for Prosperity (ISAP), working to economically empower resource-poor people through entrepreneurship and a market based approach. We aim to provide stepping stones to help them climb out of poverty.”

Crossroads is not the only reason Pankaj begun his non-profit work, but he says it “did provide me the impetus to do more and guide me how I do work. Whenever I am designing programmes, I constantly relate to the poverty simulation and try to visualise how such a programme would help me if I was making paper bags for a living.”

When a devastating earthquake struck Nepal in 2015, Pankaj reached out to Crossroads for help. His NGO, ISAP, has been responding rapidly to the need in neighbouring villages in the Dhading district in Nepal. Thanks to our donors, we have been able to assist ISAP with finances, which they have used to provide transitional shelters and relief materials along with assistance in the planned re-construction of homes better equipped to combat disasters.



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Directions to Crossroads Village 國際十字路會 指示圖

