



QUICK FACTS

- Initially founded in 1940 to support Dr. Albert Schweitzer’s medical work in Africa, The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) is a nonprofit organization that works to address health disparities by developing Leaders in Service—individuals who are dedicated to and skilled in meeting the health needs of underserved communities, and whose example influences and inspires others.
- Pioneering physician-humanitarian Dr. Schweitzer founded his iconic hospital in Gabon, Africa in 1913. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952, and his legacy of “Reverence for Life” inspired everything from environmentalism (Rachel Carson dedicated *Silent Spring* to him) to the animal welfare movement. Today, Schweitzer Fellows are his living legacy
- ASF selects and supports approximately 250 new graduate student U.S. Fellows annually, each of whom partners with a community-based organization to create and carry out a yearlong service project that addresses unmet health needs, while simultaneously undergoing ASF’s rigorous leadership development program.
- Annually, U.S. Schweitzer Fellows deliver more than 50,000 hours of service to nearly 30,000 low- to moderate-income clients. Their Schweitzer projects address not only clinical health issues, but also the social determinants of health (including poverty, education, and the environment).
- In the last program year, nearly 70% of Fellows’ community site mentors said they were committed to sustaining Fellows’ projects.
- ASF also selects Lambaréné Fellows to work at the Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Africa—a world leader in the fight against malaria, the leading killer of African children. Lambaréné Fellows collaborate with hospital staff, helping to provide skilled care through over 35,000 outpatient visits and more than 6,000 hospitalizations annually for patients from all parts of Gabon.
- There are more than 2,000 ASF alumni in the Schweitzer Fellows for Life (FFL) network. 87% of FFLs contribute to underserved populations outside of their regular work or training; 80% say the Fellowship affirmed their commitment to pursue a career related to a life of service.
- ASF runs 13 program sites across the U.S.:

Baltimore	Greater Philadelphia	New Orleans
Bay Area	Houston-Galveston	North Carolina
Boston	Indianapolis	Pittsburgh
Chicago	Los Angeles	
Columbus	New Hampshire/Vermont	

- Fellows come from a wide range of cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds that reflect the demographics of the health industry – approximately 50% Caucasian, 20% Asian, 12% African American, and 6% Hispanic, as well as other ethnic groups.
- Approximately 50% of Fellows are medical students, with nursing, dental, social work, public health, pharmacy, and other graduate students making up the remainder.
- ASF differs from many other health service opportunities in four ways:

1.) ASF is a personal pursuit, not a “plug in” volunteer opportunity.

Instead of simply volunteering to fill a pre-set role, Fellows must partner with community-based organizations to identify an unmet health need, design a sustainable service project with a demonstrable enduring impact on that need, and bring that project from idea to implementation and impact.

2.) ASF is a meaningful and integrated part of health education, not a program undertaken when a student’s “regular” life is on hold.

Many health service opportunities for professional students are options to fill the summer gap. But as a Fellow, working with the underserved is not something you do for two months and then set aside when you return to your “regular life”; by conducting their Schweitzer Project *while* they’re in school, and for a full year, Fellows must learn to make working with underserved people *part of* their “regular life.”

3.) ASF is an interdisciplinary experience, not an isolated one.

Schweitzer projects are not solitary endeavors—there’s a tremendous amount of interdisciplinary interaction and a real sense of community among the Fellows. In order to address health disparities on a large scale, health professionals must be able to work comfortably with leaders in allied fields. By sharing their intensive Fellowship experience with health-oriented students from other fields, Fellows emerge with the skill set necessary to effect large-scale change.

4.) ASF is a gateway for lifelong service; not an endpoint to a one-time volunteer project.

Fellows exit their initial year with a hard-earned blueprint for how to consistently integrate service into their (very busy) lives. They become “Fellows for Life” committed to sticking with that blueprint throughout their careers.

- ASF is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of New York and tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. The organization is managed by a professional staff accountable to an Executive Director and under the management of the National Board of Directors, which has ultimate fiduciary responsibility for all aspects of the organization. ASF operates as a single organization fiscally, programmatically and managerially. Each ASF program site operates as a division of the organization under the direction of a Program Director who reports to the National Office. Each ASF program site also has a Local Advisory Board.