



**THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP®**  
*Addressing Health Disparities  
 by Developing Leaders in Service*



*passion • idealism • action • impact*

## The Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellows Program

It's easy to see that health and health care are filled with disparities. During these tough economic times, when there are even greater needs to be met throughout the Los Angeles area, The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship® (ASF) is doing something about it.

ASF's Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellows Program (one of 13 Schweitzer sites across the U.S.) supports graduate students who wish to follow in Dr. Albert Schweitzer's footsteps. Translating their passion and idealism into action, these Schweitzer Fellows partner with community-based organizations to develop and implement yearlong service projects that improve the health and well-being of underserved populations.

In the process, they undergo a mentored, reflective, and multidisciplinary leadership development program that enhances their ability to successfully carry out health interventions.

*our mission*  
 To develop Leaders in Service:  
 individuals who are dedicated to and skilled in addressing the health needs of underserved communities and whose example influences and inspires others.

### Service That Makes a Dramatic Difference

Schweitzer service projects are not "band-aid" approaches to today's most pressing health issues; they're designed to have long-term impact on the health of underserved people and to create lasting relationships between professional schools, social service agencies, and communities in need.

In carrying those projects from concept to completion on top of their usual professional school responsibilities, Schweitzer Fellows come away with a hard-earned blueprint for how to consistently integrate service into their lives. There are now more than 2,000 Schweitzer program alumni (Fellows for Life) acting on that blueprint in their careers as professionals. 80 percent say that their Schweitzer experience reaffirmed their commitment to pursue a career related to a life of service; 13 percent said it was crucial in their decision to do so.

### Innovative Projects Meet Diverse Health Care Needs

Since 2007, Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellows have addressed a wide variety of health needs through sustainable projects with direct service at their core. Examples include the following initiatives:

- Establishing an outreach-based syringe exchange program for homeless injection drug users in Los Angeles
- Launching Los Angeles's first micro-health clinic for post-incarcerated female youth
- Developing a program addressing diabetes and obesity in at-risk teens and pre-teens
- Creating a case management intervention that improves delivery of medical and mental health care to low-income and uninsured patients
- Implementing Asian Pacific American Health Collaboration Access Resource and Education (APA Health Care) to provide vulnerable populations with screenings for obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and Hepatitis B

The Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellows Program not only provides services today to those in need, it invests in the students who will be caring for these same communities throughout their careers as professionals.



## *in their own words...*

*"Dr. Schweitzer assured the world that idealism did not equate to naïvete, and that it was the only force that would engender real change and fight inequity in the developing world. I hope to sustain Dr. Schweitzer's legacy by not only fulfilling my dreams of becoming a pediatrician and human rights activist for child orphans in the developing world, but by carrying out small, daily acts of compassion."*

**Schweitzer Fellow Sonya Soni**  
*USC Keck School of Medicine*



*"My year with The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship was a truly wonderful experience, and I am excited to know that my Fellowship continues as a Fellow for Life. I am honored to be a Schweitzer Fellow and belong to a group of fellow healthcare providers with similar passions in dedicating their lives to service."*

**Schweitzer Fellow Ashley Quan**  
*UCLA School of Medicine*

*"The Schweitzer Fellows Program gave me valuable experience in working with people from different backgrounds, learning about community clinic systems, and being involved in community service ... [it] has improved my leadership, organizational, and team building skills."*

**Schweitzer Fellow Hilda Wiryawan**  
*UCLA School of Public Health*

## Program Sponsors

Founded in 2007, the Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellows Program is a collaboration between Kaiser Permanente; Los Angeles Physicians for Social Responsibility; Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County; University of Southern California; University of California, Los Angeles; and University of California, Irvine. The program is funded through a generous start-up grant from Kaiser Permanente of Southern California.



[WWW.SCHWEITZERFELLOWSHIP.ORG/LOSANGELES](http://WWW.SCHWEITZERFELLOWSHIP.ORG/LOSANGELES)

*Visit our website for information about the Fellowship, the application process, the Fellows for Life alumni network, and giving securely online.*

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