

## Engage Students in Cross-Cultural Exchange



*Six years in Africa, traveling in over 20 countries, and training hundreds of international staff and volunteers to work cross-culturally have fueled my passion for global citizenship. My degree in Environmental and Visual Design has been a springboard to follow my career path with creativity. I approach every assignment with an open heart, a discerning eye and a methodical process for meeting goals and objectives.”* Carrie Wagner

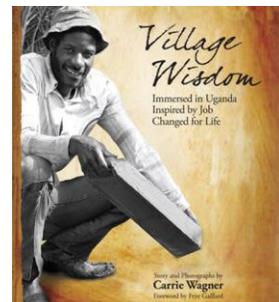
### Presentations and Workshops

**Presentation: Village Wisdom: Lessons from Uganda 1 hour -1.5 (with discussion)**

In this visual and interactive presentation, author Carrie Wagner takes her audience into the heart of rural Africa with a video of her family’s month-long stay in western Uganda. She challenges students to gain a better understanding of Africa through insights of her experiences living in the village for 3 years. Carrie’s thought provoking photographs, video and artifacts serve as prompts for her stories. This presentation is an introduction to global citizenship as a concept, responsibility and way of life. The presentation can easily stand alone or serve as a foundation for more in-depth cultural exchange sessions. (Intended for grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

**Global Citizenship: Our Response to a World in Need  
1 hour – 1.5 (with discussion)**

By sharing her experiences in Uganda and South Africa through photos, video and stories, Carrie inspires her audience to seek global citizenship. Young adults are challenged to maximize experiential learning opportunities that best fit personal interests, passions and gifts. Carrie further encourages individuals to consider that meaningful global journeys involve sacrifice and service to others. (9<sup>th</sup> grade-college)



### **Global Citizenship Workshop: Called to a World in Need**

This 3-hour workshop is designed for those who are serious about global engagement. Prior international experience is helpful but not required. Prerequisites include a heart for service and a desire to be a life-long learner. By modeling the experiential learning cycle, international trainer Carrie Wagner takes participants through a skill-building exercise which meets the following objectives: Participants will be able to 1) explain the complexities of crossing cultures 2) identify their own learning style and maximize opportunities to stimulate personal growth, and 3) begin their path to global citizenship, utilizing intuition, connections and personal goals.

(Intended for college students and young adults)

### **Workshop for K-12 Teachers Spark Global Engagement through Service Learning Projects**

This 4-hour workshop is designed to help teachers spark students' global interests, while exposing them to diverse cultures through a personal writing exchange project. Teachers will be introduced to Wagner's *Village Wisdom Kits* and will be given several options for administering a similar project. *Village Wisdom Kits* include student written books from Uganda and two documentary videos; one instructional for teachers and one to be shown to students. These kits are the culmination of a service learning project completed in 2009 which involved 150 Asheville students and 150 Ugandan students. The kits are excellent resources for teaching a variety of skills such as working with primary resources, writing in the content level, and cultural studies. Perfect for use as an interdisciplinary unit, kits can be a springboard for weaving music, art, geography, communication skills, world history, journalism, and civics together into a meaningful experience for students. Handouts will be provided including lists of sources and websites. Time will also be provided for participants to work with the *Village Wisdom Kits* and begin to create their own lesson plans using the kits and/or service learning projects.

(May be offered through WRESA or Center for Diversity Education for 4 CEU credits)

*Village Wisdom Kits* are on loan from the Center for Diversity Education, free of charge to Asheville/Buncombe County schools.

Alternatively, *Village Wisdom Kits* are available for purchase from Butler Mountain Press



# *The Story Portrait Project*

## *Building Cross- Cultural Understanding through Personal Stories*



**What:** A cross-cultural service learning exchange which accomplishes the following objectives:

- Self-discovery through personal writing
- Diversity education through reading original works of students from another country
- Creative writing skills
- Global appreciation by giving and receiving cross-culturally

**Project Summary:** K-12 students write an original “Story Portrait,” which is prompted by questions and sentence starters. The collection of original writings is taken to another country and is presented to a partnership school personally by a traveler, resident or expatriate working in that country. The participating sister school reciprocates the gifts by sending their original works to the partnering school. It is important that the connection be made through an individual who has experience with both cultures. Before the books are written and upon receipt of the international books, it is necessary to present country specifics and culture. To assure quality and appropriateness of content, it is required that teachers read all student writings before they are sent out, as well as all in-coming writings before they are shared with students. On a larger scale, schools can create a “School Story Portrait” which combines their work into a bound book. This is administered in the “Artist in Residence Program” by Carrie Wagner.

**Why it’s important:** “The complete education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must teach our children about their interdependent world, and it must prepare them to be good leaders and good global citizens. As our students participate in international exchange, they gain knowledge and experiences which help them contribute to a sustainable future for all.” (US Secretary of State, Arne Duncan, 2010) Teachers are also evaluated on the inclusion of diversity and global education opportunities in their classrooms.

**Who should participate?** This is a valuable exchange project for all grades K-12, but especially for middle school students who are beginning to gain self-awareness and appreciation for the intricately-connected nature of our global society. As they look ahead to their own future, students’ horizons are expanded as they learn about a world of need and global opportunities. When we learn about others, we learn even more about ourselves.

**Participation Fees:**

**Two ways to participate:**

**Teacher Facilitated:** It is required that participating schools purchase a *Village Wisdom Kit*, which gives the foundation for the project as well as resources for administering cross-cultural service learning projects. The kit includes a copy of Carrie Wagner’s book, *Village Wisdom*, 2 DVDs (one for teachers and one for students), a set of prompt photos for story-writing and a list of related resources.

Kit: \$100 + transport and administration of books \$150 = **\$250**

**Facilitated by Carrie Wagner:** For a more a more in-depth cross-cultural learning experience, invite Carrie to facilitate the project. This option includes the *Village Wisdom Kit*, and two presentations to students – an introductory session before writing begins, and one upon the delivery of books from partner school in another country.

2-3 hour presentation = \$300 (x2) + transport and administration of books \$150 = **\$750**

**Background:** The *Story Portrait* project is an outcrop of a service learning project called Books of Hope, ([www.BooksOfHope.org](http://www.BooksOfHope.org)). Carrie Wagner and her family traveled to Uganda in 2009, carrying with them 150 student-written books from Asheville. They brought back with them 250 Ugandan student-written books. The NC schools who participated in the project recognized that value of the mutual exchange. The unique quality of the *Story Portrait* project is that it links students through existing relationships, and is a mutual exchange opportunity for beneath-the-surface cross-cultural understanding.

Carrie Wagner is working through her network of international colleagues to provide partnership schools in many countries. Ask for a specific country.



[www.carriewagner.com](http://www.carriewagner.com)

[carrie@villagewisdombook.com](mailto:carrie@villagewisdombook.com)

828-273-6342