Values for BASIC Proposal

Development

**Core Concept**: Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good.

**Key Quote:**

*“The [Haiti] aid story is one of good intentions and bad policy, short-term fixes without a ground-breaking long game, Band-Aids over self-sufficiency.” – Jonathan Katz*

**Three Primary Postures**

*ONE: MUTUALITY* — Do with, not for.

* Relational rather than transactional
* Limit one-way giving to crisis situations
* Get the right people in the planning process (particularly those being served)
* Prioritize needs of those with whom we will work
* Consider power dynamics at play

*TWO: HUMILITY* — We all have something to learn.

* Seek to lay down impulse to be hero
* Move from “Savior” mentality to “Servant” mentality
* “Superiority disguised as a desire to serve is still superiority…” – Duane Elmer in *Cross Cultural Servanthood*

*THREE: PATIENCE* — Build capacity, not dependency.

* Long-term development takes longer than we expect
* The goal is eventually to not be needed
* Consider the Oath for Compassionate Helpers when moving quickly

**Oath for Compassionate Helpers**

* I will seek not to do for others what they have the capacity to do for themselves.
* I will limit one-way giving to crises and seek always to find ways for legitimate exchange.
* I will seek ways to empower by hiring, lending, and investing and offer gifts sparingly.
* I will put the interests of those experiencing poverty above my own (or organizational) self- interests, even when it means setting aside my own agenda.
* I will listen carefully, even to what is not being said, knowing that unspoken feelings may contain essential clues to healthy engagement.
* Above all, to the best of my ability, I will do no harm.