



omprakash

We facilitate
relationships,
dialogue &
learning
between social
change agents
around the world.

SPOILER: not a flashy solution,
not a widget to end poverty,
not a buzzwordy facade,
not a neocolonial impulse,
not a voluntourist trap.

He is Omprakash.

In 2004, he inspired us to believe that positive social change begins with simple human relationships.



Since 2004, we have been dedicated to building mutually beneficial & educational relationships between grassroots social impact organizations

—a.k.a. our **Partners**—
and volunteers, donors & classrooms around the world who can learn from & support their work.

Our network
by the numbers:

36
COUNTRIES

167
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

16,972
PEOPLE

\$6,566,891.83
DISTRIBUTED SINCE 2005

The Challenge:

'Voluntourism' is a **multi-billion dollar industry**, but it is ethically- and pedagogically-bankrupt, *shaped by distorted incentives, ethnocentric assumptions, and limited emphasis on substantive learning, reflection, and dialogue.*



Annually,
voluntourism is
1.6 million people
spending
\$2 billion USD

NPR 2014

Analagous activities often not factored into those numbers:

- Gap Years
- Service-Learning
- Volunteering Abroad
- Int'l Service Trips

A Broken Industry

In the dominant paradigm, **middlemen sell expensive 'placements'** or chaperoned tours — an inefficient & disempowering way of matching needs with assets. An overemphasis is placed on 'making a difference' & 'changing the world.'



Misaligned Stakeholders

Students, universities, and parents struggle to gain or enable 'global experiences' in a way that is ethical, affordable & academically robust. And **social change organizations** in the 'Global South' struggle to retain their autonomy and mission coherence.

Omprakash **redefines this industry** through a variety of channels that engage all of those stakeholders:



Our network of curated **Partners** in 30+ countries are real social change orgs doing real social change work in their communities.



Omprakash EdGE is our state-of-the-art, mobile-ready online learning platform for custom curricula, mentorship & critical dialogue.



Global Dialogue is a professional forum for global dev and social change stakeholders. **The Blog** is an open mic for voices across the network.



Crowdfunding via Omprakash allows our Partners and EdGE volunteers to raise money and raise consciousness among a global donor base.

Our vetted Partners maintain their own profiles on our site, and anybody can apply for their positions. We do not 'place' people. Partners autonomously decide which applicants to accept. The result = healthy relationships grounded in real dialogue rather than in a middleman's quest to sell 'placements.'



omprakash

Build Relationships

EdGE

Voices

Donate

About

Search Field Positions

Location or Keyword

Connect with our Partners

Where

Region

Countries

More Filters

What

Specific Skills

Thematic

Research Opp

Map

Satellite

Benin

Nigeria

Central African Republic

South Sudan

Ethiopia

Somalia

Kenya

Tanzania

Zambia

Malawi

Mozambique

Zimbabwe

Angola

DR Congo

Uganda

Rwanda

Burundi

Equatorial Guinea

Gabon

Côte d'Ivoire

Ghana

Togo

Liberia

Okavos

Kinshasa

Luanda

Dar es Salaam

Nairobi

Bright Generation Community Foundation

Zomba, Malawi

★★★★★

\$10.00

Umunthu Volunteer

Education Program Coordinator

Summer Camp Coordinator

+2 More

Art & Global Health Center Africa

Kumasi, Ghana

★★★★★

\$15.00

Development Volunteer

Art Teachers

Videographers

+3 More

“Prayasam strongly believes that success is ultimately about connection, not perfection. Omprakash has helped us to connect and amplify our VOICES to various friends and supporters.

— Amlan



Amlan Ganguly

Prayasam Founder & Director

Profile of an Omprakash Partner:

Prayasam

Kolkata, India

Founded: **1996**

Joined Omprakash: **2012**

Average Daily Cost: **\$22.50**

Raised through Omprakash: **\$105,138**

EdGE volunteers hosted since 2013: **4**

Mission:

To organise and develop the children of slum areas as empowered change agents by forming groups and sustainable advocacy on health education, environment and livelihood within their community.



The EdGE (Education through Global Engagement) online platform supports student learning before, during, and after their international experiences. Universities and other providers can customize EdGE for their own student cohorts, or individuals can enroll directly in a public Omprakash EdGE cohort.

2017 FSU Global Scholars

Home

2017 FSU Global Scholars

Cohort Chat

5 Group

Individual

Unit 12 Response | due 4 days ago

Unit 13 Response | due in 3 days

Open Classroom >>

Recently, you've been @mentioned by:

@RebeccaJustilien | a month ago [View](#)

@KatieHiebert | 2 months ago [View](#)

@JanWymer | 2 months ago [View](#)

@KatieHiebert | 2 months ago [View](#)

Your mentor Jan has commented on your:

Unit 10 Response | [View](#)

Unit 9 Response | [View](#)

Unit 7 Response | [View](#)

Dialogue is everything. Keep it alive!

Observations
You:24 | Avg:3

Comments
You:16 | Avg:17

Responses
You:9 | Avg:10

Blogs/ROPs
You: 0 | Avg:0

Cohort Activity:

Alex Knott
2 hours ago
Unit 12 Comment|
[View...](#)

Yandry Varela
16 hours ago
Unit 10
Observation| [View...](#)

Alex Knott
a day ago
Unit 9 Comment|
[View...](#)

Alex Knott
a day ago
Unit 12 Comment|
[View...](#)

Rebecca Justilien
a day ago
Unit 9 Comment|
[View...](#)

Alex Knott

All

Responses

Comments

Observations

Area Specific

Blogs/ROPs

Capstones

Logistics

58%

Stay on top of your logistics>>

2017 FSU Global Scholars

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

ONGOING CHATS

Aodhan Sweeney
Student

Jan Wymer
Mentor

ONLINE

Steve Sclar
Admin

Willy Oppenheim
Admin

Kim Reid
Admin

Renee Barron
Mentor

OFFLINE

Latika Young
Admin

Addison Mathis
Student

Sabrina Mato
Student

Emily Holmes
Student

Michelle Le
Student

Samantha Kucin



EdGE students choose a mentor from within the Omprakash team to receive ongoing feedback and support before, during and after their field position. Our mentorship team is comprised of a diverse group of young professionals with a vast array of experience in fields related to int'l development.



2017 FSU Global Scholars

Your Logistics To Do List:

- Global Engagement Grant due 4 months ago
- Concentration due 4 months ago
- Flights
- Payment
- 10 Questions to Ask due 2 months ago
- Visa Pre-Survey due a month ago
- STEP Confirmation due a month ago
- Emergency Info due a month ago
- Visa due 11 days ago
- Field Position Confirmation
- Passport
- Waiver
- Health History
- Mentor

Mentor Preferences

Please select at least 3 mentors:



Select



Select



Deselect



Select



Tyrell Kahan

Tyrell is a veterinarian that currently serves as an AAAS S&T Policy Fellow in the Bureau for Food Security at USAID. Originally from Florida, he obtained his doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Florida and recently received a Master's in Development Practice from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Tyrell is driven by a desire to help others and is primarily interested in issues related to the human-animal interface including agricultural development, zoonotic diseases, and food security. He has experienced working on development-related projects in Latin America as well as East and West Africa. In his free time, he enjoys reading, learning from and about others, and spending time with family and friends.

Your Selections

Tyrell Kahan



Mario Corea










Lily Parrott



Submit Preferences






The EdGE Logistics section provides a customizable list of tasks for students to complete before departing for field positions. Common tasks in the list include uploading a copy of one's passport and visa, entering flight and preventative health information, completing surveys, and more.



omprakashEdGE

Mentee Manager

2017 FSU Global Scholars



2017 FSU Global Scholars

Your Logistics To Do List:

Global Engagement Grant

due 4 months ago

Concentration

due 4 months ago

Flights

Payment

10 Questions to Ask

due 2 months ago

Visa Pre-Survey

due a month ago

STEP Confirmation

due a month ago

Emergency Info

due a month ago

Visa

due 11 days ago

Field Position Confirmation

Passport

Waiver


Health History

Mentor

Passport

Passports

Upload a scan/photocopy/photo of your passport.
We need to see the photo AND signature pages.
We should see something like this:



Passport Info

Please upload a picture of your passport's main photo/info page

Upload

Submit

An EdGE classroom provides rich content and space for dialogue between students, mentors, and admins. Our standard pre-departure curriculum is a twelve-week introduction to the history, ethics, and economics of international 'development,' and we offer custom content for different cohorts.



Unit 4 ▾

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 R



The Great Convergence, The Great Divergence ³

In an effort to reconcile notions of 'progress' with the stark inequalities that persist in our world, it may be helpful to think about the historical context of modern inequality. Has it always existed? Is it inevitable? To help us with these questions, we'll first read an excerpt from the introduction of economist Angus Deaton's 2013 book, "The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality."

**THE
GREAT
ESCAPE**
health, wealth,
and the origins
of inequality

Inequality is often a consequence of progress. Not everyone gets rich at the same time, and not everyone gets immediate access to the latest life-saving measures, whether access to clean water, to vaccines, or to new drugs for preventing heart disease. Inequalities in turn affect progress.[...]

Many of the great episodes of human progress, including those that are usually described as being entirely good, have left behind them a legacy of inequality. The Industrial Revolution, beginning in Britain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, initiated the economic growth that has been responsible for hundreds of millions of people escaping from material deprivation. The other side of the



The EdGE Roundtable is the classroom's forum, providing a space for students and mentors to browse and engage with each other's end-of-unit responses. Unlike most online-learning platforms, EdGE is purpose-built to facilitate authentic user-to-user exchange, rather than uni-directional content delivery.

Roundtable

In Unit	Thread	Thread activity
8	<div><div></div><div>Maimunas Abdullahi</div></div>	Unit 8 Response
3	<div><div></div><div>Pooja Santapuram</div></div>	Unit 3 Comment <div><div></div><div>Marissa</div></div>
3	<div><div></div><div>Eliza Noyes</div></div>	Unit 3 Comment <div><div></div><div>Willy</div></div>
8	<div><div></div><div>Jasmine Donald</div></div>	Unit 8 Comment <div><div></div><div>Willy</div></div>
7	<div><div></div><div>Anna Craig</div></div>	Unit 7 Comment <div><div></div><div>Mayme</div></div>
9	<div><div></div><div>Christina Craig</div></div>	Unit 9 Comment <div><div></div><div>Mayme</div></div>
5	<div><div></div><div>Elise Lindbergh</div></div>	Unit 5 Comment <div><div></div><div>Saliha</div></div>
2	<div><div></div><div>Amélie Pralle</div></div>	Unit 2 Comment <div><div></div><div>Amélie</div></div>
5	<div><div></div><div>Peter Skow</div></div>	Unit 3 Comment <div><div></div><div>Laura</div></div>
1	<div><div></div><div>Henry Austin</div></div>	Unit 1 Comment <div><div></div><div>Kit</div></div>

The EdGE Mentee Manager allows program mentors and admins to track student participation, logistics, field position planning, performance evaluations, and more.



Mentee Manager

Home



2017 FSU Global Scholars

Admin to 48 students

Overview & Expectations



Alexander Alvarado

2 days ago
Last login

U2 O
Most recent



David Carre

3 days ago
Last login

U12 R
Most recent



Cameron Canton

2 days ago
Last login

U12 R
Most recent



Savannah C

6 hours ago
Last login

2017 MAO Kenya

Admin to 6 students

Overview & Expectations



Shannon Robins

7 days ago
Last login

U12 R
Most recent



Danny McNeil

15 days ago
Last login

U11 R
Most recent



Marissa Kleiman

10 days ago
Last login

U11 R
Most recent



Brianna B

10 days ago
Last login

2017 Omprakash EdGE

Admin to 633 students



Elise Lindbergh

16 days ago

U8 O



Jasmine Donald

16 days ago

U8 R



Maimunas Abdullahi

3 hours ago

U12 R



Eliza Nov

10 hours ago



Caitlin Dunn

EdGE

United States
Florida State University



Skills

art, fitness and physical
wellness, music, psychology /
social work / counseling



Languages

English, Spanish



Education

Florida State University, 2018,
Spanish Major

About Me

My name is Caitlin Dunn, I am 27 years old, and my passion is working with and advocating for people who need support. I have worked in many different fields such as being the head coach of the Tallahassee Synchronized Swimming team (non-profit), I have been a cook for 9 years specializing in sushi and vegan cuisine, and I have volunteered with WWOOF in 2009. I hope to master the Spanish language to help communities here in the United States. I am now currently a student at Florida State University majoring in Spanish and minoring in social work, and plan to apply for the Peace Corps when I graduate. I am committed, hard-working.



General Post

The Supper Club

04/10/2017

2

An EdGE student's profile showcases their work for friends, family, and the general public. Omprakash offers state-of-the-art blogging and crowdfunding tools to all EdGE students, and student profiles aggregate all blog posts and active crowdfunding campaigns.



Donate to Christina Armes's Campaign

Empowering Women and Strengthening the Community in Ollantaytambo, Peru



\$2,000.00
CAMPAIGN GOAL

\$1,113.00
RAISED BY 14 PEOPLE
IN 48 DAYS

5
DAYS LEFT

Donate today!

56%

\$1,113.00

\$2,000.00



This is a Personal Campaign | 95% of the money raised will be earmarked for Christina Armes for approved expenses related to their EdGE participation. 5% of the money raised will be earmarked for Awamaki.

Hello, and thank you for stopping by my funding page! I'm deeply honored to be serving with Awamaki in Ollantaytambo this summer as a tour guide practicing and promoting sustainable tourism in addition to empowering women in their local communities. Awamaki provides skills training in knitting, sewing, weaving, and other creative skills, as well as technical and administrative training. In addition, Awamaki promotes sustainable tourism by facilitating valuable cultural experiences for tourists and promoting appreciation for Andean way of life.

So much of what Awamaki does is near and dear to me. As a history and Spanish major, I

Share this campaign on



Donation history

\$50.00

April 19, 2017

Sharon Mora

Lakeland, United States

Excited for this opportunity for you Tina! :)

\$5.00

April 18, 2017

Anonymous

EdGE students are able to crowdfund via 'Partner campaigns' in which 100% of the money is earmarked for their host; or 'Personal Campaigns' in which 5% is earmarked for their host and 95% for the student's approved trip-related expenses. Omprakash Partners are also able to crowdfund for themselves.





Qualitative and Quantitative Data



Joseph Millward

EdGE



Seattle U IDIP 2017



March 24, 2017



Record of Perspectives



0 Comments

Namaste. Maa tapaiharu ko laaghi sappai ramro chaa mon parcha. Maa yo blog post mo qualitative ra quantitative data mo lekhnechu. Himserve ko yatraharu gari sakyo, tara yo hapta kari kari data compilation kaam gardaichau. Hello. I hope that all is going well for you. In this blog post I will be writing about qualitative and quantitative data. Himserve's evaluation visits are now finished, but again and again we are working on data compilation this week.

Blogging via Omprakash gives EdGE students a beautiful platform for sharing text, photos, video, audio, quotes, and embedded files.

The pre-departure course includes an intro to qualitative research methods which enable students to build a 'Record of Perspectives' — a collection of blogs that feature myriad voices & are the building blocks of EdGE Capstone Projects.



Case Study: EdGE @ Florida State University



Fall: FSU chooses their "Global Scholars" cohort. Many **low-income and first-generation college students** are able to take part due to our low-cost model and financial aid.

Winter: The cohort gets **enrolled in EdGE**. Students *independently* research our Partners and apply to their favorites. Over the course of several weeks, they dialogue with our Partners and confirm field positions in the network.

Spring: Students engage in our **one-of-a-kind EdGE online classroom**, learning from each other and their **EdGE Mentors**. Students begin developing ideas for their Capstone Projects.

Summer: Students spend at least **2 months at their field position**. They use the Omprakash platform to blog and post Capstone Project updates.

Fall: Students return to campus and join a post-trip EdGE classroom to reflect and workshop Capstones before final **submission and dissemination of Capstone Projects**.

“The insights EdGE offered, but more importantly, the questions it asked, for so many of us, **opened life-altering doors** of reflection, dialogue, and action. To me, these doors represent just how **formative and transformative** the experience has been from the very first week of EdGE to now.

Inam Sakinah
FSU '18



Inam was a 2014-15 EdGE Global Scholar who worked with Arajuno Road Project in Puyo, Ecuador

Some of the **Universities & Organizations** running **EdGE-based programs** with us:

CLAREMONT
MCKENNA
— COLLEGE —

W
UNIVERSITY *of*
WASHINGTON

CFHI
child family health
international

M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MAO  KENYA



SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY



CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP
RICE UNIVERSITY



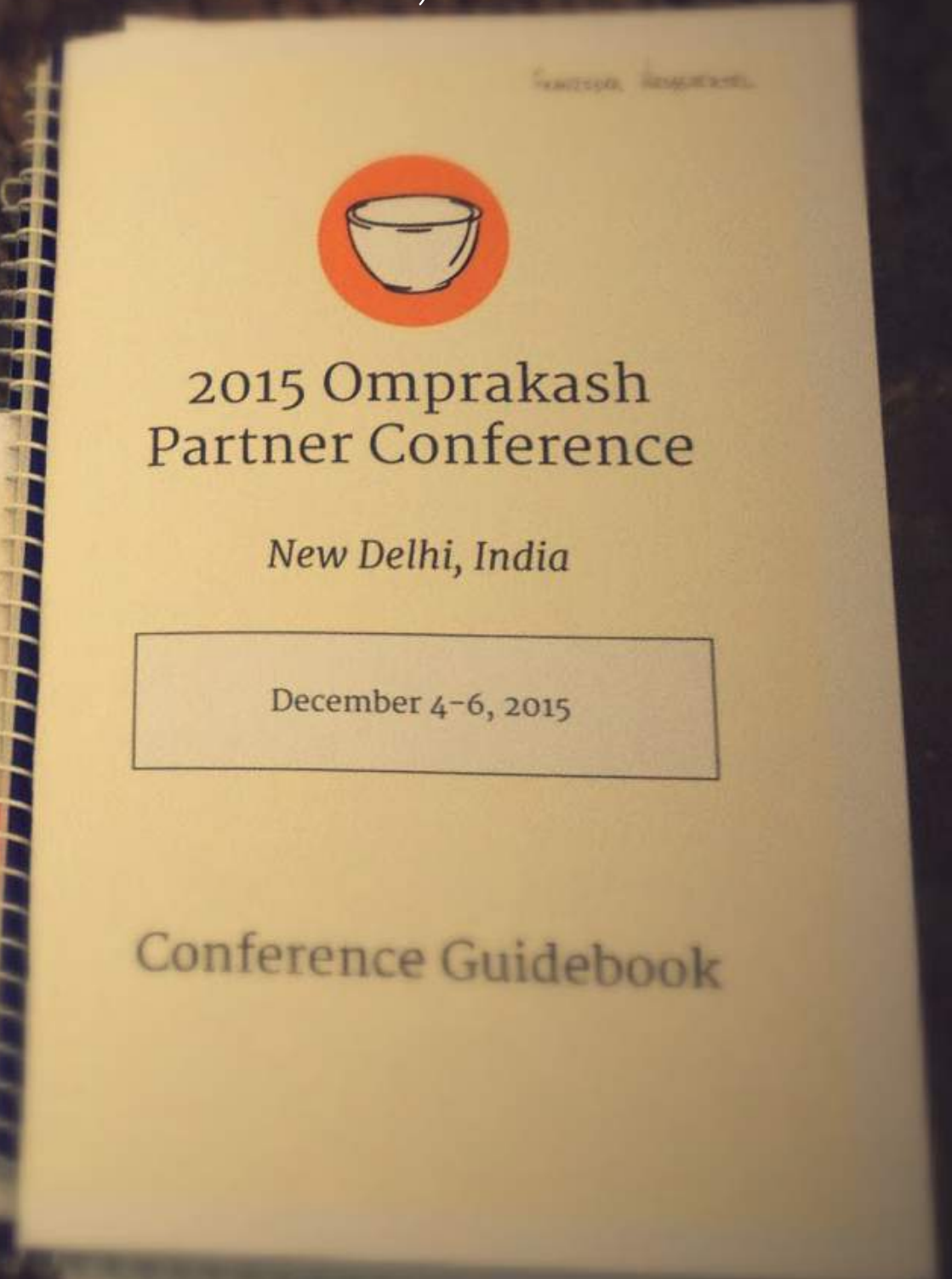
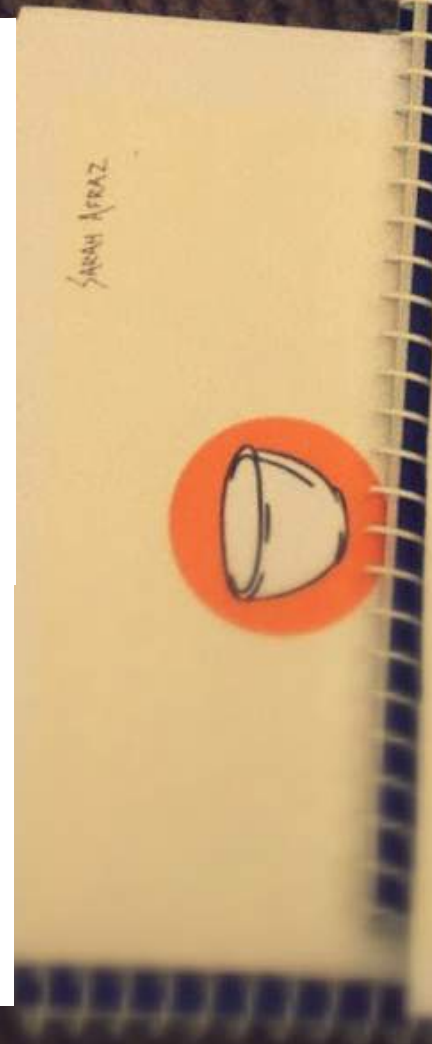
GLOBAL CITIZENS INITIATIVE

We also host conferences
for our Partners, **on their turf.**



From December 4-6, 2015, Omprakash hosted a Partner Conference in New Delhi, India.

In this photo, conference participants celebrate the conclusion of a very successful meeting of minds from all over the world.



Omprakash in Press

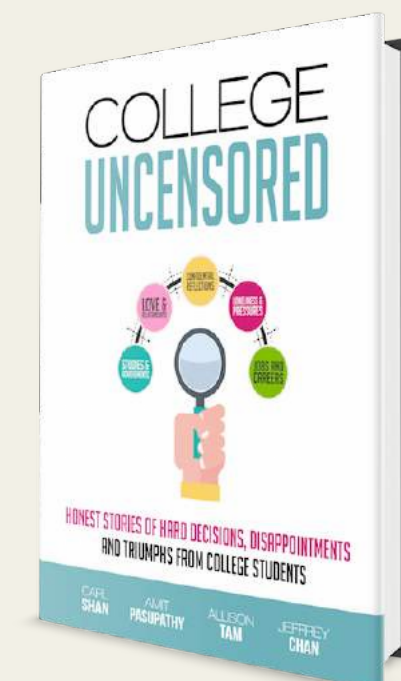
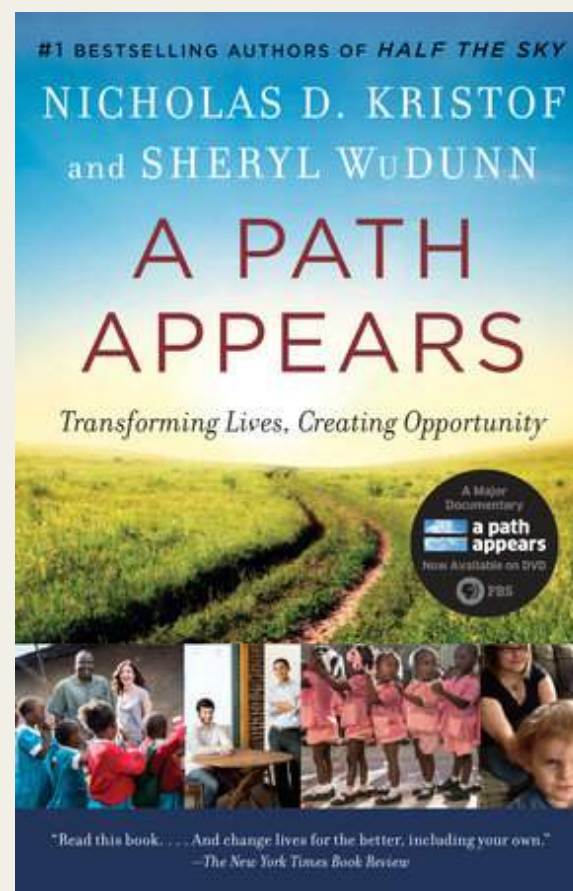
The New York Times



Slate



the guardian



“It's such an incredible resource for organizations and for individual volunteers. Firstly, Omprakash is about fostering educational experiences.

–College
Uncensored,
2015

Contact:

Willy Oppenheim, Ph.D.

Founder & Director

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Omprakash

omprakash.org

Omprakash is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Tax ID# 20-8655418