

Team Leader Information and Trip Details

About the Trip Leaders

Team leader name: Amanda Shenk/Charlie Buracker

Currently lives in: Winchester, VA/Front Royal, VA

Occupation: School Counselor/Mason

Best phone: +1-540-671-0250/+1-540-252-6455

Best email: ms.ashenk@gmail.com/charlynb2015@gmail.com

About the Trip

Location: Accra, Ghana

Dates: July 15-25, 2018

Cost: \$1,860

Expected group size: 12-14

Trip Number: 35014



Amanda Shenk

I am always busy doing something! I consider myself an adventurer who loves to travel, dance, and enjoy life. I also love to propagate (and share!) plants. I am full-time elementary school counselor, as well as adjunct instructor at a local university, and I teach children's yoga. I am the mom of two kiddos who keep me hopping! Chloe is 18 years old and Atticus is 12 years old. I am also in the dissertation phase for my Doctor of Education in Administrative Leadership and am researching the effects of yoga as a treatment for children with anxiety. I currently live in Winchester, VA (EST).

I have co-led three volunteer builds with other non-profit organizations and this will be my first time co-leading with The Fuller Center for Housing. For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to visit Africa, anywhere in Africa. I believe the best way to travel and to really immerse yourself into a culture is to go and work alongside the people of that country. It is only natural that I get to visit Ghana to help others and learn about their culture

One of my favorite memories as a team leader was this one hot and humid day in Sri Lanka; we were digging a well for a homeowner with a small bowl, a mattock, and a tall ladder. I was not looking forward to day two of well digging, however, that morning, one of my team members was so enthusiastic (about digging!) and the homeowners were so grateful (they bought us snacks!) that my attitude immediately brightened. It's amazing what you can accomplish as a team!

Cell: +1.540.671.0250

Email: ms.ashenk@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/amandashenk>

Charlie Buracker

I have been volunteer building for 12 years and have been a team leader for about 20 trips to: Vietnam, Portugal, Romania, Trinidad & Tobago, Sri Lanka, and the Dominican Republic...just to name a few. I am a Mason by trade and although I lay a lot of brick and block, I appreciate the art that comes with using stone. When I am not busy working, I am usually doing a project around the house or spending time with my family. I love to travel and explore the world. I currently live in Front Royal, VA (EST).

When I was asked, "Why do you want to go to Ghana?" I did not really have an answer. I enjoy using my trade to help out wherever I can. It could be Ghana, India, Thailand, or my next-door neighbor...if I'm needed, I try to give what I can to the world. I became a team leader as a result of my first trip as a member of a team to Costa Rica. The house was for a single mother with three kids and each morning before school the 11-year-old daughter would start the day mixing mortar with her little hands just for us. She really wanted a home where she didn't have to sleep on the dirt floor. That's when I knew I wanted to be part of this type of volunteer work - to be a part of something bigger.

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Email: charlynb2015@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/charlien.lynburacker>