Development, by definition, is a permanent process. There are milestones to measure growth, but it is a forward-facing state of ongoing advancement Outreach International has been developing our approach to resolving chronic poverty since our official founding in 1979. Through careful examination of data and the inclusion of our participants’ viewpoints, we refine our processes and become an ever nimbler, effective force for sustainable, positive change.

After decades spent working in impoverished communities in the Philippines, Korea, and India, Outreach co-founder Charles Neff applied his experiences in effective community development into a unified model, informed by a variety of other organizations’ approaches to social welfare and the authentic participation of beneficiaries. The commitment to values and principles such as community, liberation of the poor, compassion, and the equal worth of all people remain foundational to our work.

First articulated as a specific methodology in 1982 by Dr. Dennis Labayen, former Chief Field Officer for Outreach International, the Participatory Human Development (PHD) process represents cutting edge thinking across multiple disciplines - economic, psychological, sociological. Ground-level indigenous facilitation in partnership with community residents inspires community and personal development, rather than an approach that orients on projects.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, PHD was refined and improved to address changing needs and incorporate new lessons learned through our work around the world. Modifications to the PHD model continued expanding its’ scope in this century, digging more deeply into the root causes of chronic poverty in order to enhance both our participants’ — and our own — understanding of the issues we face, and the solutions that demand equal input from both sides.

Outreach’s decades of dedication to our community partners, as well as our penchant for restless innovation and sustainable outcomes, is why we’re the number one search result across all major search engines for many phrases, including, “how to help people in poverty.” We’re pretty excited about it, too.
KEVIN PRINE  President & CEO

Kevin joined Outreach International in January 2012. The culmination of a quarter century of his experience in entrepreneurship, business, and nonprofit leadership, Kevin’s life work has always been oriented toward building systems that create significant, sustainable value. Most recently, Kevin was a director and partner at Tradebot Systems and Tradebot Ventures, one of the largest and most successful trading firms in the world. Previously, he served on the faculty at two universities, where he held an endowed chair in business and leadership and built a thriving entrepreneurial center that resulted in a Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) USA national championship. Kevin’s work in education received consistent awards for outstanding teaching, and his academic writing has appeared in national and international publications.

Kevin’s search for practical solutions to big problems is consistent throughout his career. Combining his scholarly research and entrepreneurial work in Asia, Central America, and Eastern Europe with his understanding of the principles of Outreach International — he has been a donor since 1991 — he realized that development projects alone do not address the causes of extreme poverty. Charity is most effective when generosity creates a positive ripple that grows beyond the initial beneficiary, and eliminating poverty from the planet requires change that is both viral and permanent. Outreach International, with more than thirty years of fine-tuning a deep community development process, helps forge these lasting changes around the world, each and every day.

EDUCATION
Ph.D., University of Kansas
M.B.A., Baylor University
B.A., Graceland College

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OUR MISSION

We facilitate community-led development, worldwide.

For over 40 years, Outreach International’s patient, principled commitment to cultivating sustainable, community-led development has helped people around the world address the poverty-related issues they face and transform their lives. In 10 countries worldwide, Outreach provides communities with the organizational framework to assess their own needs, then work together to prioritize, plan and achieve their shared goals.

We equip individuals with the mindsets and materials to harness their own unique abilities as part of a community-led team, and empower them to expand opportunities for generations to come.

OUR PROCESS

Outreach field staff facilitates local community groups to identify, prioritize and resolve issues of persistent poverty, empowering participants by equipping them with confidence, skills and resource networks as they act together to improve their lives. We do this through a nine-step process we call the Participatory Human Development Process, or PHDP.

Read more about this process at outreach-international.org/our-work/our-process

FUND FACT!

Thanks to an anonymous donor covering all of Outreach’s overhead expenses, 100% of every dollar donated goes directly and completely to our work with communities worldwide.
WHERE WE WORK, WHAT WE DO

- BOLIVIA
- HAITI
- NICARAGUA
- DR CONGO
- ZAMBIA
- MALAWI
- INDIA
- NEPAL
- CAMBODIA
- PHILIPPINES

27% 11% 16% 18% 15% 13%
HEALTH EDUCATION COMMUNITY FOOD & NUTRITION SMALL BUSINESS WATER

171 578 58,537
FIELD PROGRAM LOCATIONS COMMUNITY ISSUES ADDRESSED BENEFICIARIES

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Contact Charlotte Belshe for more information
c.belshe@outreachmail.org
816.833.0883 ext. 315
FIELD STAFF & DONOR TESTIMONIALS

When communities use the PHD process and follow its nine steps, they practice action, evaluation, and reflection. Through this experience, people gain confidence, raise their levels of consciousness, and learn skills and tactics. The change is permanent, because the beneficiaries are the ones creating the solution and retaining the knowledge. The work multiplies, because the group members are expanding the project to other people in the community. Finally, the work grows organically because beneficiaries begin helping nearby villages by using the skills they acquired through their own development and PHDP. I am very happy about the work I do, because it gives me a real chance to work with Outreach International methodology (PHDP).

–RAMA CHANDRA JAGARANGA
Human Development Facilitator, India

It is true that without hope, there is no rising out of poverty. And without someone to sow the seeds of hope in the people who are distressed by and immersed in poverty, there would be no transformation. But all of this movement could not be achieved without the financial support and selflessness of those who have money in their bank accounts.

–MELVY LIZETT MUNOZ ROSAS
Bookkeeper, Bolivia

Coming from a financial background, I am most interested in organizations that address the problem of poverty with both financial effectiveness and sound, open financial stewardship of the gifts from their donors. Outreach International excels on both accounts. I have personally seen, in a self-funded site visit to the Bolivian Andes, how donor contributions change the current and future lives of men, women, and children, with dignity and empowerment. I also pay close attention to how funds are being spent on administration, and again, I consistently see personal responsibility and careful management of donations at all levels of the organization. Outreach International is a rare breath of fresh air!

–RICK LINDGREN
Outreach Board Member

WOW. I can’t tell you how much the process that Outreach International employs empowers the poor to help themselves make changes in their lives and the life of their community. I just returned from a trip to Malawi, where Outreach is assisting the poorest of the poor villages to learn the skills and take the steps to learn communal decision-making; setting goals and prioritizing, and learning how to submit proposals to many NGOs, as well as to their own government (when applicable). And the process is SO empowering for the women. The difference in the pride, joy and forward-looking spirit in the villages where Outreach has been for 10 years, versus three years, versus a new village, is amazing. The “soft skills” of the in-country, local Outreach staff are phenomenal.

–RUTH JAYCOX
Outreach Volunteer

I was able to travel with Outreach International to the Philippines back in the ‘90s, and then to Malawi this past year, and I continue to especially love Outreach because...what is said in print is what really happens with the people! The people are SO proud of what they have achieved because of their work with Outreach. With the support of Outreach facilitators, the people truly do identify their priority issues and then work to increase their sources of and improve their living conditions - and those changes last!

–KATHY ROBINSON
Former Chair, Outreach Board

“I HAVE PERSONALLY SEEN...HOW DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS CHANGE THE CURRENT AND FUTURE LIVES OF MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, WITH DIGNITY AND EMPOWERMENT”

–Rick Lindgren