About the Foundation

Welcome

The Virtue Foundation is a nonprofit organization with Special Consultative Status to the United Nations. Its mission is to increase awareness, inspire action and render assistance through healthcare, education, and women and justice initiatives, as well as research and analytics. Composed primarily of volunteers, Virtue Foundation is guided by the principle that true global change must begin within each of us—one person at a time, one act at a time.

PARTNERS

Virtue Foundation has collaborated with numerous organizations and institutions, including:

**Nonprofits**
- Asia Society
- iCivics
- FilmAid International
- Refugees International
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- UNESCO
- UNICEF
- United Nations

**Companies**
- Apple
- Avon
- DataRobot
- Dun & Bradstreet
- Goldman Sachs Gives

**Universities**
- Columbia University
- Cornell Law School
- Fordham Law School
- Harvard University
- MIT
- Rockefeller University
- UC Berkeley

**Media**
- ABC
- Bloomberg Media
- CNN
- iHeartRadio
- NBC
- Newsweek Daily Beast
- Nickelodeon
- Seneca Women

**Media**
- Microsoft
- Standard & Poor’s
- Toyota
Virtue Foundation seeks to provide both impactful short-term and long-term sustainable development solutions to communities across the globe. Our goals are to remedy pressing, immediate community concerns while establishing lasting partnerships to create and implement initiatives for development and advancement in the areas of health, education, and women and justice.

In addition to our work in the field in countries around the world, we engage in significant research and analytics and have spent several years developing the Actionable Data Initiative, a data-driven machine learning model that seeks to create an efficient market for healthcare delivery in underserved regions of the world.
Over the past several years, Virtue Foundation has been developing a technology platform that will help create a more efficient market for the delivery of healthcare in underserved regions of the world. Born from years of on-the-ground medical missions, the project uses predictive analytics and machine learning to better predict needs and match available resources in global health. The first output of this initiative, *Insights in Global Health: A Compendium of Healthcare Facilities and Nonprofit Organizations*, was edited by Dr. Ebby Elahi and published by Taylor & Francis in 2020.

In 2021, *World Compendium of Healthcare Facilities and Nonprofit Organizations* was published, the most comprehensive index of critical information on healthcare facilities and nonprofits in 72 low- and lower-middle-income countries as classified by the World Bank. Presented in an easily accessible format and organized into 72 country chapters, the compendium allows stakeholders to better identify where healthcare services are available and where additional resources are needed. QR codes for each country link to a newly launched digital tool, VFMatch.org.
As part of its ongoing Actionable Data Initiative and in concert with the publication of the World Compendium, Virtue Foundation has created a digital platform, VFMatch.org, that allows users to better match needs and resources for global healthcare delivery. The platform provides features to explore healthcare facilities on up-to-date maps, while also providing information on healthcare-related nonprofits in 72 low- and lower-middle-income countries. VFMatch.org also offers valuable information about country conditions and volunteer opportunities for medical professionals. The goal is to make this platform easily available to the global health community, including volunteer physicians and healthcare workers, NGOs, governments and the private sector.
For the nomadic peoples living in remote areas of Mongolia, surgery is an inaccessible, unaffordable luxury. For more than a decade, we have led surgical teaching missions to Mongolia, bringing lifesaving, sight-restoring operations and other surgeries to Mongolians while educating local surgeons and healthcare professionals.

During our more than 10 years of missions to Mongolia, our efforts have expanded across geographies and hospitals. In addition to our clinical work and training, Virtue Foundation developed the first retinal service/vitreoretinal service for the country. We have also made significant donations of medical equipment and supplies.

To date, we have served more than 10,000 patients and performed hundreds of surgeries in Mongolia. In addition, we’ve provided thousands of hours of best-in-class clinical training to local surgeons. Our teams consist of specialists skilled in oculofacial/oculoplastics, microvascular, cataract, glaucoma, ocular tumor and strabismus surgery as well as anesthesiologists, pediatric intensivists, liver surgeons, ENT and head and neck surgeons, neurosurgeons and others.
GHANA HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE

For over a decade, volunteer health professionals have delivered critical surgical care and medical training throughout Ghana. Partnerships include those with Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Tumu Municipal Hospital, Wallembelle Health Center, Nandom Hospital, and Wa Regional Hospital.

As part of these efforts, Virtue Foundation volunteer doctors and surgeons provide services in maternal health and gynecology, general surgery, plastic reconstructive surgery, ophthalmology/oculoplastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, and pediatric intensive care. Our surgeons work to serve patients in the most underserved areas, providing life-restoring treatment to patients who would otherwise never receive care.

Since we started working in Ghana over a decade ago, Virtue Foundation has made significant donations of medical equipment and supplies for distribution to hospitals and clinics in 21 districts. We have also initiated several groundbreaking programs, including:
NONINVASIVE VENTILATION PROGRAM

We implemented a noninvasive ventilation pilot program for children under 5 years of age that is reducing cause-specific child mortality rates due to respiratory failure from 14% to 4% in the Tumu Municipal Hospital. The ventilator pilot was the subject of a paper presented to the British Thoracic Society and published in Pediatric Respiratory Review. We have since expanded the program to include donations and training to develop a High-Dependency Care Unit at Tumu Hospital and a distributed network of lifesaving oxygen therapy supplies—including oxygen cylinders and regulators to power the donated ventilators, nebulizers and critical oxygen delivery supply—for critical and emergency respiratory care across the Sissala East District.

RURAL AMBULANCE NETWORK IN SISSALA EAST DISTRICT

We helped launch an emergency transport system in the Sissala East District in the Upper West Region. From a single tricycle ambulance tailored to the geography, road conditions, and healthcare needs of the local community, we have since expanded to a fleet of seven tricycle ambulances, providing emergency transport services to over 10,000 people.
ACID VIOLENCE HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE

Acid violence is a form of gender violence in which cheap, available acid is used as a weapon for settling personal disputes and destroying victims’ lives. Since 2004, Dr. Ebby Elahi has led medical teams to train local surgeons and provide care to victims.

The plight of one Cambodian survivor and her child, the youngest documented survivor of acid violence, inspired us to produce *Stolen Faces*, an awareness-raising documentary. Narrated by actor, director and producer Liev Schreiber, the film chronicles the medical team’s activities in Cambodia and was screened at the United Nations High-Level Segment of ECOSOC. We also collaborated with Cornell Law School to conduct a comparative analysis of acid violence and access to justice and released a report titled *Combating Acid Violence in Bangladesh, India, and Cambodia*, which led to Cambodia making changes to its laws relating to acid violence.
We have partnered with organizations including Apple, Microsoft, Nickelodeon, iCivics and the Girl Scouts, among many others, on impactful education initiatives, such as:

**LOUISIANA EDUCATION INITIATIVE: MAKING TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN**

In 2005, in an effort to help rebuild hurricane-devastated Louisiana, we partnered with Apple to give 660 laptops, fully-loaded with Microsoft Office software, to children affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many of them living in and attending school in post-hurricane trailer parks. We also led professional training workshops for educators.

Virtue Foundation also worked with the Louisiana governor’s office to develop a technology-enabled educational model for the state’s children. The state later expanded the program to provide a laptop to every 6th grader in Louisiana. Louisiana’s governor commended Virtue Foundation for its outstanding and persistent efforts in seeking to make a real difference in the quality of children’s education.

On the third anniversary of Katrina in 2008, we donated a permanent digital storytelling computer station to the Louisiana Children’s Museum during its Days of Hope event. We also led digital storytelling activities, workshops and professional training at the museum.
We deploy a digital storytelling curriculum focused on philanthropy, community service and civic responsibility. Young people learn to use technology to tell their own stories of community service. We provide schools in underserved areas with technology, digital storytelling workshops and professional training.

PARTNERSHIP WITH JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR’S iCIVICS

We have also partnered with iCivics, a nonprofit founded by Justice O’Connor that teaches students about civics, to create an integrated curriculum with online games and digital storytelling. Students tell stories of community service, citizenship and the positive impact they are making in their communities.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 6000 FOR GIRLS LIVING IN HOMELESS SHELTERS

Virtue Foundation knows the importance of education for girls and of programs that build girls as leaders. We’ve been a supporter of Girl Scout Troop 6000, the troop created for girls living in New York City’s homeless shelters. Starting with a single troop in 2017, the program has now expanded to 15 shelters and has inspired people across the country.
In 2006, with an estimated 350,000 children serving as soldiers in more than 30 conflicts around the world, Virtue Foundation pledged to help educate, provide medical treatment, rehabilitate and reintegrate former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Foundation also produced a short documentary narrated by actress Anne Hathaway on the topic and launched the Child Soldiers Youth Project to raise awareness of this issue among high school students in the U.S. and give them the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of child soldiers.
As part of our development philosophy, we partner with women leaders and judges around the world. We have hosted international women judges at the U.S. Supreme Court with Justices Sandra Day O’Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. We also support women judges in underserved regions of the world with programs including:

**GHANA SUPREME COURT CLERKSHIP AND JURIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

Under the leadership of Ghana's former Chief Justice Georgina Wood, we partnered with the Judicial Service of Ghana to implement two key projects. One is the Ghana Supreme Court Clerkship, in which promising young women attorneys provide Ghanaian Supreme Court Justices with research support while getting legal experience, training and mentoring. And, through the Ghana Jurist in Residence Program, we have supported Ghanaian women judges with training in the problem-solving court model in the U.S.

**KENYA JUDICIAL AND TRIAL ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECT**

For five years, we collaborated on the annual Kenya Judicial and Trial Advocacy Training Project. Led by the Hon. Ann C. Williams and Lawyers Without Borders, among others, the model strives to advance the rule of law and women’s rights in Kenya.