

Benefits of Community-Based, Residential, Life-on-Life Training

1. Utilizes the complete range of communication systems (verbal, written, social, olfactory, etc.)
2. Accommodates various learning styles
3. Fully applies adult learning principles
4. Provides a context for a holistic and cohesive model of training (cognitive, social, spiritual, personal, etc., plus know, be, do objectives)
5. Well-suited to transformation of values and behaviors
6. Places people in a context which minimizes life's distractions – allows focus
7. Increases good retention due to less likelihood of multi-tasking
8. Provides training for children at age-appropriate levels
9. Provides face-to-face opportunity for the learning and application of soft skills (interpersonal, conflict resolution, etc.)
10. Allows for more fluid and in-depth exchange of ideas
11. Allows trainers to see the trainee in whole-life and more complex situations
12. Allows trainers to identify the needs of the trainee in a more complete way
13. Allows for faster response to questions and higher quality instructor feedback
14. Provides for broad experiential and community-based learning (activities, role plays, simulations)
15. Provides transparent engagement among community members for powerful interaction and life impact. Learning is more than just a curriculum.
16. Allows facilitators to exercise the key role of modeling. More is caught than taught. "Iron sharpens iron." "Our faculty is our curriculum." (Dr. Bob Ferris, Columbia International University)
17. Intentionally pursues heart issues that need disclosure and engagement
18. Minimizes opportunity for "faking it"
19. Provides opportunity for observing and engaging family issues
20. Gives opportunity to observe leadership potential and follow-through on responsibilities
21. Provides social interaction outside of the content area. Participation in community social life prepares one for relational ministry, which most cross-cultural contexts demand.
22. Increases levels of trainee satisfaction
23. Provides opportunity for meaningful feedback to the agency
24. Can be a wise investment of mission funds because of increased likelihood of enhanced retention