



FIVE YEARS OF NBA XPLOR

75

Alumni completing NBA XPLOR
in 5 cohort years

26

Total NBA XPLOR host sites over
5 cohort years, in 8 locations
around the U.S., including 28
Disciples congregations

95%

Alumni actively employed
or pursuing degrees for
employment in health and social
service or ministry settings,
including immigration advocacy,
restorative justice for the formerly
incarcerated, art therapy, nursing,
education, social work, public
health, trafficking, and more

25

Residents discerning a call and
path to seminary, to pursue
ordained congregational ministry;
hospital, military, prison, and
university chaplaincy; or other
forms of ministry

10-15%

Residents hired on by their
community engagement site each
year, for ongoing employment

15%

Residents connect with another
NBA program each year, to start
their own faith-based non-profits
or to network with health and
social service ministries

Learn more at:
nbacares.org/xplor



Linda Idoine with Hiram-Mantua NBA XPLOR Alumni

Spiritual Companions and NBA XPLOR: A Journey of Accompaniment

Linda Idoine was just completing a two-year study in spiritual discernment when she received a call saying she had been “unanimously chosen” as Spiritual Companion for NBA XPLOR in Hiram-Mantua, OH. She’s served in this role for four years now, witnessing former XPLOR Residents going on to be ordained, get married, and more. “All that was needed was my own willingness to fill the role,” Linda says. “I have found it important to walk through those doors that so intentionally open before you and trust God’s leading.”

Spiritual Companions share a powerful, intergenerational relationship with XPLOR Residents, prioritizing deep and meaningful conversations about the most important things in this life. The relationship begins with team-building at XPLOR Laboratory each August, is reinforced through 40 weeks of continuing conversation throughout the program

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INCUBATE: Garden of Eden Health Center Breaks Ground in Puerto Rico

year, and typically extends long past the completion of each cohort.

Spiritual Companions and Residents share life stories, consider how to balance the life of faith with the work of justice, and experience spiritual practices—like body prayer, energy fasts, and Ignatian spirituality. Spiritual Companions use a weekly, two-hour Sabbath time to accompany Residents—through everything from movie nights, reading groups, processing of current events, vocational discernment, justice-seeking experiences, bible studies, and sustained attention to the shared, lived experience of grief, joy, and profound confusion.

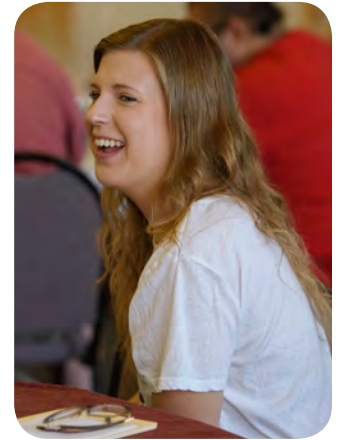
“This experience is a blessing. It is a constant reminder of how complicated life is in your twenties,” says Rev. Pedro Ramos Goycolea, pastor at Desert Dove Christian Church and



NBA XPLOR Spiritual Companions, 2018-19

Spiritual Companion for the Tucson-Marana, AZ, XPLOR House. “I am not sure if they are getting more out of the program or if I am.”

This experience of accompaniment certainly impacts the Residents. “I sometimes wish I had the tools I gained in NBA XPLOR before I even joined, because I would have been able to grow immensely more,” says Natalie Clark, XPLOR Alum from Portland, OR, who served in Dallas in 2015-16.



Natalie Clark, 2015-16 NBA XPLOR Alum who lived and served in Dallas, TX

“My experiences with NBA XPLOR, especially involving my Spiritual Companion, Rev. David Cartwright, and the friendships I made inside and outside my job site, are still shaping who I am today.”

Within and beyond NBA XPLOR, the journey continues!

Onward,
Rev. Bonnie Osei-Frimpong
Director, NBA XPLOR

Learn more about the NBA XPLOR Residency at nbacares.org/xplor.



National Benevolent Association
XPLOR
FAITH, JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY

NBA XPLOR: Stories of Impact

Getting ordained. Launching an online communications firm. Community organizing for affordable housing. Creating a student community engagement program at an historic Disciples college. Serving on General Board, Regional Boards, the NBA Board. These are just some of the stories of NBA XPLOR Alumni. Will you join us in supporting leadership development programs like NBA XPLOR, and make a gift today?

You may give online at nbacares.org/donate, by mail, or call us at (314) 993-9000 ext. 2662. Thank you for your generosity!

Rev. Héctor J. Hernández Serves with Mental Health Initiative, Peer Groups as Connect Coordinator

In his new and expanded role as Connect Coordinator, Héctor will have greater responsibility for both mental health outreach with particular focus on Disciples Hispanic communities, and the coordination of NBA peer learning and wellness groups. Some highlights of his work include artistic expression to help partners and participants reflect on things such as theology, mental health, and group formation, and will use established programmatic strategies such as: peer groups, mentoring groups, events, developing partnerships, educational offerings, ministry of presence, and relationship building.

“I’m deeply grateful for the opportunities I have had to work with Héctor, bringing both the mental health and peer group work to life. Working with Héctor has stretched and



Rev. Héctor J. Hernández with the NBA Mental Health Initiative Chaplains Peer Group, February 2019

developed me in ways I cannot begin to count,” says Rev. Monica Wedlock Kilpatrick, Director of Connect Ministries. “I’m excited to continue this journey with Héctor in a full-time capacity, cultivating new possibilities with the church and Disciples communities for years to come!”

Garden of Eden Health Center Breaks Ground in Puerto Rico

The Garden of Eden Health Center (GOEHC) is a vision of a community health clinic; a faith-based health education program focused on women, infants, and children; and a senior and therapeutic health center, deep in the heart of the central mountain range (Cordillera Central) of Jayuya, Puerto Rico. One of our newest NBA Incubate Partners, GOEHC held the official opening ceremony for the health clinic in County Mameyes, Jayuya, P.R, in February 2019.

The ceremony was part of a weeklong program that allowed partners and volunteers to experience the mission of GOEHC through service and celebration. Many of the partners for GOEHC were present for the celebration, including



Alicia Rodriguez (left) with family members, who donated the Puerto Rico land where later stages of the GOEHC will be built

Director/CEO Alicia Rodriguez, GOEHC board members and team members, NBA, the Florida Region, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico, other denominational partners, clinic volunteers, medical staff, and community members.



National
Benevolent
Association
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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**NBA is a grateful recipient of Disciples Mission Fund support.
Your contributions help make stories and ministries like these possible. Thank you!**

NBA at General Assembly: July 20-24, 2019

We look forward to gathering with you in Des Moines this summer! Join us for:

- Trivia Night on Sunday 7/21
- Co-Hosted Dinner with HELM and Obra Hispana on Monday 7/22
- Shared exhibit space featuring wellness activities with Disciples health and social service ministries
- Workshops on vocational discernment; congregational welcome; advocacy, activism, and organizing; storytelling; and more!

Learn more at nbacares.org/GA.



"Every day I get to witness the life-altering ministries taking place across our denomination. I'm deeply indebted to our donors, who also see what I see. I'm grateful to be a donor to the National Benevolent Association, and it is a privilege to give."

Mark D. Anderson,
NBA President and CEO

Join Mark in supporting NBA at nbacares.org/donate - thank you!

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MISSION STATEMENT

Following God's call, the National Benevolent Association exists to inspire and connect the people and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to accompany one another in the creation of communities of compassion and care, and to advocate for the well-being of humanity.



National **Benevolent** Association
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