

New DFW Travel Program Launches

DFW Board Names New Travel Provider



Dear Member

Dining for Women is thrilled to launch a new and exciting Travel Program that will provide meaningful and inspirational travel experiences for our members. Following a formal application process and thorough vetting, our Board of Directors has approved [Elevate Destinations](#) as our travel provider.

Elevate Destinations is based in Cambridge, MA and specializes in designing and implementing sustainable travel programs for nonprofit organizations while empowering and respecting the local destinations. It is a female-owned and operated social enterprise; philanthropy and positive social and environmental impact are key to its mission. Elevate's experience ranges from arranging stays in traditional local housing with bucket showers in Malawi, to eco-luxury excursions in the Amazon, with a wide range of trip styles in between.

We were fortunate to receive a number of proposals from well-qualified travel providers, and we want to thank all of our applicants. Elevate was selected due to its extensive experience in international travel (95 percent of its work takes place in developing countries), demonstrated commitment to traveler safety and security, and strong focus on sustainability practices and gender issues. It has partnered with other nonprofits that are similar to DFW, including the Peace Corps and Global Fund for Women.



In today's rapidly changing world, international travel can be unpredictable. Elevate does extensive contingency and crisis management planning. It conducts annual vetting of its local travel operators in order to ensure they are well-qualified and prepared for any situation and that they do not participate in human trafficking or any other human rights abuses.

In addition, Elevate is committed to its [Sustainability Practices](#) – all of its trips benefit local communities and conservation. For example, it reduces the carbon footprint and other potentially negative impacts of travel by providing carbon offsets for all land portions of its trips. It also selects the most sustainable accommodations available which includes vetting for environmental impact, fair wage practices, community investments, and human rights issues.

We especially love Elevate's "[Buy a Trip, Give a Trip](#)" program that allows groups of local children to visit tourist sites in their own country, and its belief that travel has the power to transform lives and landscapes.

DFW trips will continue to offer opportunities for our members to connect face-to-face with our grantees and the women and girls we serve. Our goal is that these experiences will deepen our members' understanding of the issues faced by women in the developing world, especially the women we support, while fostering strong bonds of friendship with other travelers.

We know that many of you have been anxiously awaiting the return of our Travel Program, and we will



be working with Elevate to offer a new trip as soon as possible. We expect the first trip will take place by early 2018 and will be announced in *The Dish* and on our website.

We are extremely excited about the innovative and varied trips that Elevate will offer to you, our members. We will work with Elevate to ensure that it offers a range of trips with varying costs and lengths in order to appeal to the broadest range of members possible. You may want to check out Elevate's [website](#) and its trips for individual travelers under "Where Do You Want to Go?" Please

keep in mind that DFW's group rates will be different from those advertised for individual travelers. And be sure to watch DFW's website and *The Dish* for future announcements on these life-changing travel experiences.

Sincerely,

Susan Stall
Board Chair

Beth Ellen Holimon
President