Elliott Powell is an experienced world traveler and engaging leader who has studied the design and efficacy of international development organizations extensively, both in theory and on the ground. He believes in the ability of international development initiatives to improve well-being, and balances this optimism with a deep understanding that effective organizations must turn a critical lens on their own strengths and weaknesses. Elliott holds degrees in environmental management and Latin American studies, and was a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellow at Tulane University, where he studied alternative development models.

Elliott's passion for international development was ignited as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nicaragua, after which, he took the long way home, traveling Central America by bus for six months. Soon after, he began working for Water for People as a volunteer on a four-hour project that led to a full time position in resource development. There, Elliott absorbed all he could about special projects and programming.

Elliott appreciates the power of change. He loves the agility and freedom that come with testing and perfecting program systems with a small nonprofit, and his own story, too, illustrates an eagerness to explore, pivot, and adapt.

Elliott lives with his partner, Sarah, their two daughters, and a love-able rescue pit-bull in New Orleans.