
















































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An Interview with Brynna Rao, Operations and Outreach Manager for The Adventure Project

As with many great people I know as friends, I met Brynna Rao through our mutual interest with Invisible Children and were both present at the Fourth Estate Leadership Summit 2013. Even though we didn't get to meet then, I have been able to connect and learn about her story and her involvement with The Adventure Project.

A Connecticut native, Brynna earned a B.S. in Health and Spanish and hours of non-profit volunteer work along the way with Invisible Children and Half the Sky Movement. As Founder of a university foundation, The Green Fund, Brynna has brought together faculty, students, and facilities at her Alma mater to create environmentally conscious changes on campus.

She has traveled and worked extensively throughout Latin America, refining her photography and videography skills and volunteering at a rehabilitation facility for survivors of sex-trafficking and domestic abuse. Brynna currently works as Operations and Outreach Manager at [The Adventure Project](#), creating transformative jobs in developing countries.

In 140 characters, Brynna is: New Englander. Spanish speaker. Avid skier. Amateur windsurfer. Wanderluster. Scarf addict. Laugh-crier. And never fits a USB key in on the first go.

Ryan: What is The Adventure Project and how did it start?

Brynna: I remember Becky Straw, our CEO/Co-Founder, telling this amazing story. Becky was standing in one of the largest displacement camps outside Port-au-Prince with Jody Landers, Co-Founder, and Esther Havens, a humanitarian photographer, when three burly men called out and approached them. She assumed these guys were going to beg for something. Instead, one wrung his hands and sheepishly said, "Excuse me, ma'am, but we're wondering if you are hiring? Because we really want to work." Becky realized people all over the world want the same things: the opportunity to care for their families, send their kids to school and lead healthy lives.

With that vision in mind, Jody and Becky launched [The Adventure Project](#), a nonprofit focused on creating jobs in developing countries. We work strategically to invest in jobs that solve local problems and help communities thrive. Now when someone stops Becky in a village and asks if we're hiring, she gets to smile and say, "Yes, we are."

Ryan: What are the main goals of the organization?

Brynna: We create jobs by giving people the tools, education and resources to become entrepreneurs. Our focus is to redirect charity toward jobs that lift people out of poverty while transforming local communities with improved health, decreased hunger, a safer environment and clean water. We use rigorous data to understand the most effective ways to move people out of poverty – for good.

In four years, with only three full-time employees and a dozen passionate interns, we have employed 745 entrepreneurs in India, Haiti, Kenya, and Uganda, which include well mechanics, healthcare workers, farmers and stove masons. Together they serve over one million people each day.



Brynna: The first thing that comes to mind was photographing and producing videos for our field programs in Uganda and Kenya last November. I remember we were right outside of

Kampala, Uganda waiting for one of our Health Care Agents in Uganda to come home. I strayed away to take a peek around the side of her house where I found a pig napping in the grass and hundreds of bricks drying out in the mud. I snapped a photo. I heard a car engine putter out around the corner and saw Gertrude running to give Becky a warm hug like old pals – they hadn't seen each other for two years. Her ear-to-ear smile was electric. She told us how she treated 300 people with malaria since she was hired - a huge testament to the impact of our programs. I asked her later what the bricks were for. She said, "I'm building a guesthouse for my son." My heart grew two sizes that day.

Ryan: What are you most excited about for 2015?

Brynna: To not only watch our team grow but see an expansion of our field programs. Personally, I'm looking forward taking on some more fundraising projects and cultivating a larger student community for The Adventure Project. Interested? Then I'm your girl, brynna@theadventureproject.org.

Ryan: What's the DVF Awards and how will it impact The Adventure Project?

Brynna: We're exciting for Becky and Jody to be nominees for the Diane von Furstenberg, People's Voice Award - it's an award honoring extraordinary women who have transformed the lives of others. \$50,000 is awarded to the woman who receives the most votes - an incredible opportunity for us. This grant could affect the lives of countless people by increasing TAP's reach and resources. With our partners, we're working to build out a tech app that will help track the jobs we create, intake interviews for new entrepreneurs, well locations and will directly link donors to the lives they are transforming in real-time. It will allow us to track growth and scale our impact across the world. We'd love your support and vote. bit.ly/VOTETAP

Ryan: How can people help?

Brynna: So glad you asked! Voting for the award ends this Sunday, March 29th at midnight, and we'd love your help. Voting at bit.ly/VOTETAP not only enters you in a raffle to win a trip for two to NYC - BUT, thanks to our photographer Esther Havens, you can also be entered to win a coveted ONA Travel Backpack - perfect for your next adventure. Visit Esther's blog to enter: <http://bit.ly/WinONABag> (we have great friends, right?).

Ryan: How can people get in touch with you and follow The Adventure Project?

Brynna: You can be the first to get updates on our work, learn about new opportunities, and get a behind the scenes look into life at TAP HQ by subscribing to emails on our website and following us on social media - we'd love to follow you back:

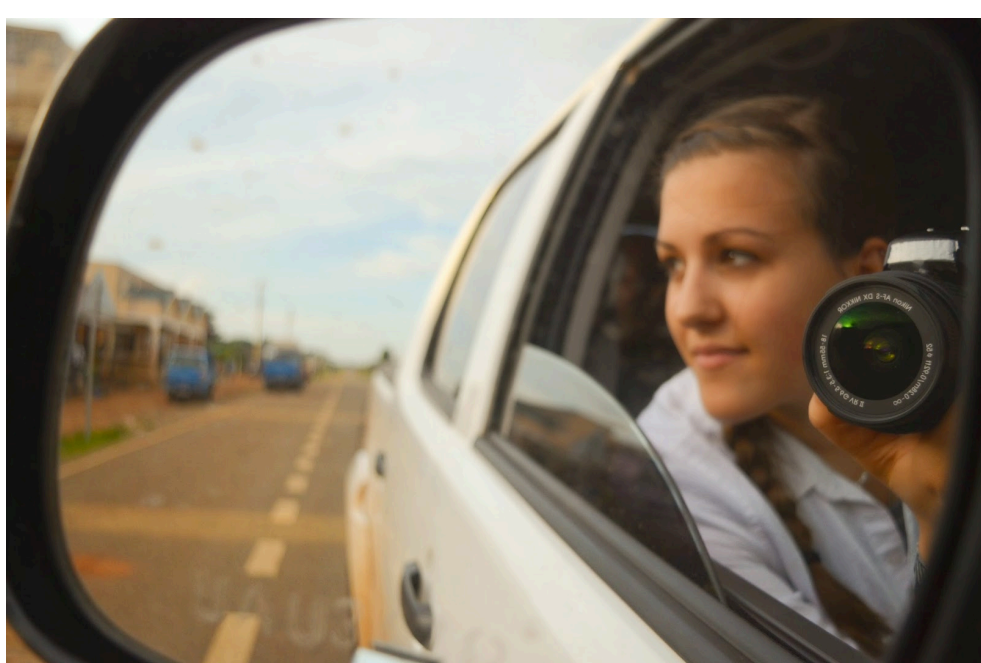
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Instagram: [@TheAdventureProject](https://www.instagram.com/TheAdventureProject)
Twitter: [Ad_VenturePro](https://twitter.com/Ad_VenturePro)

Email: brynna@theadventureproject.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BrynnaRao
Instagram: [@brynnarao](https://www.instagram.com/brynnarao)

About the blog's author:

Ryan Flynn is a graduate of Illinois College, with a B.A. in history and minors in psychology and political science. He is author of the 2015 book, "Barbara Farley: A True Blue First Year", along with his co-author, Steve Hochstadt, who also writes a blog at stevehochstadt.blogspot.com. Ryan is a local history buff, who published his thesis, "The Hood is on Jacksonville: The Morgan County Ku Klux Klan, 1922-1933", in December 2013.

Ryan's writing has been featured in Illinois College's The Rambler, Illinois College TRiO Tribune, the IC Archivist, Forte Literary Journal, and the Leila Grace Foundation's Students in Action blog. To follow his work, you can find him at <https://www.facebook.com/rwilliamflynn>.



Ryan: How did you first become involved with it?

Brynna: I met The Adventure Project's fearless leader, Becky, at the 2013 Invisible Children Summit in LA. At the time, I was a student looking to make my way in the nonprofit world - hoping to become part of an organization with inspiring people with a vision, ethical programs, and big impact. TAP met all of my prerequisites and more, but in this instance, it started with meeting the innovator behind it all. Not long after, I started as an intern, then a consultant and now I'm Operations and Outreach Manager.

Ryan: What's been your favorite experience while working with The Adventure Project thus far?

