OleMissions; The Hotty Toddy Help.

In a world focused on money, status, and success, it is refreshing to see college students working towards something outside their college campus or degree. These particular students are the members of OleMissions. This organization was created May 2015 by Caroline Loveless, the first trip was scheduled for January 2016. “We took 19 students to Nicaragua for a week. We did lots of work in a rural community called La Coyotera. Specifically we dug trenches for a permanent potable water system. We also had the privilege to help lay almost 1,000 feet of pipe for the water to eventually travel through!” Says Caroline. Working in other organizations and serving as a leader, Caroline’s past trips to Nicaragua would come up in many of her conversations with other Ole Miss students who were interested in mission work yet did not have the reliable organization or leader. After receiving praise from a survey to gauge the interest levels of students and mission trips, Caroline was able to gather a team of students to set up a bank account, create a mission statement, and arrange the proper logistical setup to take steps in allowing other Ole Miss students to experience the richness of mission work. When speaking with Cole Putman, a founding member of the organization, his personal description of OleMissions he explained “OleMissions is a growing operation that seeks to give Ole Miss students opportunities to serve abroad in a humanitarian capacity. We look to serve alongside communities in 5 specific areas: Economic Development, Water Sanitation, Nutrition, Education, and Health Care. We want to create an organization open to all students, no exceptions, that allows them to serve others.” As Caroline’s senior year nears its end, her hopes for the future of OleMissions is a trip to Asia in the next few years when the numbers of volunteers increase along with more consistent trips. “I will take away the lesson of loving people and their stories because of my work with OleMissions. My advice to anyone starting something bigger than themselves would be to first outline your goals and purpose. It is very easy to get carried away in the planning process and lose sight of why you began the process. Emotionally speaking, I hope that the students who travel with OleMissions can grow and learn the importance of love, friendship, respect, and people. Mission work can be hard and emotional, but if you let it impact your soul, body, and mind, the rewards are endless.”