Volunteer Placement Profile
Patient Care Volunteer

Fundacion Niñez Internacional
Quito, Ecuador

www.volunteerbasecamp.com
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Job Description

Fundacion Niñez Internacional needs patient care volunteers to attend to the patients’ requirements before, during and after being seen by a doctor or dentist, at the clinics. Because this organization only accepts as many children as there are sponsors, the center is well funded. However, they still need volunteers to meet the demands of the children and their families who come to the clinic seeking medical or dental attention.

Patient care volunteers at the Medical/Dental Clinics would be asked to assist the doctors, dentists and other staff in their routine tasks.

Volunteers usually spend at least half of the day attending to duties directly related to the patients immediate non-medical needs such as providing emotional support and assistance for the children and their families that come to the center.

The other half of the day is often spent in the restocking of supplies, sterilization of equipment and cleaning of clinic areas in preparation for the next day's activities. This time would also be spent helping to archive patient information and preparing patient folders and data for the next day's clinic.

Patient care volunteers at this clinic would obtain excellent experience in the many demands involved in the operation of a medical/dental clinic. This placement does not require the volunteer to have had previous experience in this field, however for anyone considering future employment in a medical profession they would find this volunteer experience beneficial.

Volunteer Tasks Required

Assist Doctors & Dentists

A patient care volunteer would assist the medical professionals in the preparations necessary of the patients before, during and after being treated at the clinic by the doctors and dentists.

Cleaning of Equipment
A patient care volunteer would assist in the sterilization of equipment and the cleaning of the clinic areas in preparation for the next day's activities. This would also include the restocking of supplies.

**Support Children & Families**

A patient care volunteer would provide emotional support to the children and their families. This could involve explaining what is involved in some types of examinations or the after care that is required following some types of treatments, etc.

**Archive**

A patient care volunteer may be asked to help in the recording of pertinent data to patients files after treatment. The volunteer would also be expected to prepare patients files for the treatment of patients booked to be seen at the clinic the next day.
Organization Details

As a nonprofit humanitarian organization, Fundacion Niñez Internacional, strives to help children around the world overcome the burdens of poverty. To become healthy, educated, self-sustaining individuals and contributing members of society.

This goal is achieved primarily through child sponsorships, which unites children in need with individual sponsors who wish to address the childrens immediate and basic needs, and gives them the tools and opportunities necessary for success. In addition to sponsorship, Fundacion Niñez Internacional, works to further improve the living conditions of children and families living in poverty. Through projects such as latrine building, clean-water initiatives and income-generated programs, they help families live a more productive, healthier and happier life.

The sponsorship program improves the lives of poor children by providing basic necessities, benefits, services and programs that support long-term development and opportunities that prepare them for success. As children grow, the organization's support changes with them to enhance their progress toward becoming capable, contributing members of their communities.

Their mission is to bring real and lasting change to children living in poverty. In partnership with contributors, they reduce their daily struggles, invest in their potential, and provide them with the opportunity to grow up healthy, educated and prepared to succeed and contribute to society.

When the Organization was Founded

In 1936, Children International Fundación was founded in the city of Bethlehem (Israel). During this time a group of widowed mothers took the initiative to create a center to sponsor children affected by war. The founding concept was simple: children and their families would register to seek the assistance of sponsors either in the same country or outside it, in order to receive not only financial assistance but also the moral and emotional support that an outsider could deliver. The Ecuador branch is managed by Elizabeth Orellana.
How the Organization is Funded

Fundacion Niñez Internacional has a sponsorship program, the majority of sponsors being from the USA, Canada and Europe.

For over 75 years, Children International has been providing critical assistance to children and families struggling in terrible poverty. Through their one-to-one child sponsorship program, they reduce the burden of poverty on impoverished children, invest in their potential and provide them with opportunities to grow up healthy, educated and prepared to succeed and contribute to society.
Placement Location Information

Of the 53,000 sponsored children in Ecuador, Fundacion Niñez Internacional helps 20,000 sponsored children in Quito alone. Working from five community centers in neighborhoods in the poorer, more marginalized areas in the north and south of Quito.

Fundacion Niñez Internacional Medical and Dental Clinics are clean, well stocked and well funded - because Children International only accepts as many children as there are international sponsors. This leads to quality and timely medical attention. Sponsored children are required to go for a medical and dental check-up at least once a year. Although the center is not necessarily lacking in financial or material resources (although there are long waiting lists of children to be sponsored), they are highly appreciative of all volunteers and their help is greatly needed.

As a nonprofit humanitarian organization, Fundacion Niñez Internacional strives to help children around the world overcome the burdens of poverty to become healthy, educated, self-sustaining and contributing members of society.

City Description

Quito or also called "Luz de America", is the capital of Ecuador; a country located in South America, on the Equator line. Quito is considered one of the most beautiful cities in South America because of its amazing colonial architecture, historical sites, fantastic landscapes and panoramic views all surrounded by incredible mountains, rivers, parks and volcanoes.

Quito was founded in the 16th century by the Incas Tribe and is located at an altitude of 2,850 meters above sea level.

Centro de Quito, (colonial city) is the largest and best conserved colonial city in South America; this is why the UNESCO named it a "World Cultural Heritage Site" in 1978. The city's structure on the 320 hectare compound is an outstanding example of superb architecture from the sixteenth to the twentieth century; surrounded by volcanic stone with very narrow streets within, (built stone by stone), there is much to see.
The historic centre of Quito has ancient colonial homes, priceless churches, chapels, monasteries, convents, as well as plazas, museums and republican buildings with interesting architecture.

Once outside of the historical centre of the city, Quito takes on a completely different personality in the “new town” where many high rise and government buildings are found.

Though Quito is old and historic, the public transportation is fairly efficient and the city is served by a network of buses that travel throughout most of the areas; it is a cheap way of getting around. Since the city is very long and narrow, it is divided into three zones and many buses run in each zone of the city.

Currently, the heart of the capital is full of vigour and culture, such as "Heritage Nights" where citizens and visitors can enjoy the unique attractions in the, "jewel in the crown of Ecuador", through images and videos.

**Points of Interest**

In the collective memory of Ecuadorians, the founding of Quito refers to legendary times and the first inhabitants Quitumbe Quitus, whom later merged with the Caras. Quito's story does not begin or end with the arrival of the Spanish, who were but one of the important milestones in the course of ancient history lived by Ecuadorian people.

Immediately after the victory over the Inca ruler Atahualpa in 1535 Spanish conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro and Diego de Almagro settled in Cajamarca.

One member of the expedition was Sebastian Benalcázar appointed Lieutenant Governor of San Miguel who soon formed the famous city of Quito.

There are more than thirty religious structures in the historic centre of Quito and the Jesuit Church is considered the most elaborate structure. The populous in mainly of the Roman Catholic faith and has been since the invasion of the Spanish in the 16th century.

Quito is located very close to the equator and just outside of the city limits there is a monument and museum which marks the equator's location.
Weather in the Area

Because Ecuador is located on the Equator line, Quito's weather is very unique. Due to the Equator, Ecuador has no seasons; there is summer and winter. The year has six months winter and six months summer but the number of months for each changes from time to time.

Because Quito is so high up in the mountains, the sun is very strong and the wind blows really hard; it can get pretty cold at night. Quito always has a temperate climate with temperatures ranging from 10 to 27 °C.

Transportation From BaseCamp

When traveling to the placement locations in the Northern Quito Neighborhoods, volunteers will catch the bus two blocks from the BaseCamp House to Quicentro where they will transfer to the northern neighborhoods.

When traveling to the placement locations in the Southern Quito Neighborhoods, volunteers will catch the bus two blocks from the BaseCamp House, which will drop them off near the placement. Volunteers then need to walk five blocks to arrive at the Community Centers.
Accommodation and Meals

All of our volunteers begin their stay in Ecuador at our BaseCamp Center in Quito. Given that this placement is less than a 1 hour and 15 minute commute from BaseCamp, volunteers working here will have the option of living with us at BaseCamp or living with a host family.

The following information outlines a brief description of life at BaseCamp and also what someone can expect living with a host family in Ecuador. Once you have completed our application, you can let our staff know if you would prefer to live with a host family. Otherwise, your application will default to having you live with us at BaseCamp.

If you have any questions about the difference between life at BaseCamp or life with a host family in Ecuador you can always give us a call or send us an email. Our contact details are listed in the footer of every page of the site.
BaseCamp Ecuador

BaseCamp Ecuador is located in the trendy Mariscal district of Quito. Within easy walking distance of banks, restaurants, internet cafes and more; BaseCamp in Quito is perfectly situated for any need. Whether you are taking advantage of the rich and vibrant night life of La Mariscal or visiting a local market, BaseCamp Ecuador is always just a few minutes away.

There are six dormitory style guest rooms and five wash-rooms. Pillows, sheets and blankets are provided. There are two common areas on the main floor, including a small resource centre, containing books, magazines, games and other Ecuadorian publications. As well there is a large selection of local movies and documentaries which are available for guest viewing. In addition to the two common areas, BaseCamp Quito has a rooftop terrace, the perfect spot to watch the street come...
awake with a morning cup of coffee, or spend an afternoon relaxing in the sun.

BaseCamp Quito is also the orientation and training centre for international volunteers visiting Ecuador. In addition to accommodation and meals, BaseCamp Quito also provides volunteers with orientation, Spanish Language training (1 - 8 weeks), placement consultation and work plan seminars, as well as follow up and continued support while volunteers are at their placements. All of these services are available to guests who are interested.
Living With a Host Family

Living with a host family in Ecuador is a fantastic way to gain a deep understanding of and appreciation for the people and customs of the country. Each home-stay will provide a bed and three meals per day for our volunteers. The majority of host families offer private rooms with only one or two volunteers living with the family.

In the case of a volunteer lodge or ranger station (which is often the only option for placements within a National Park), volunteers will be living in dormitory type accommodation and meals will be provided in a mess hall or dining area.

Living with a host family can greatly enhance your performance at your placement. For one, it will have a huge influence on the speed with which you gain familiarity with the local language. This, along with your deeper understanding of cultural practices and beliefs that you are likely to gain in this environment, can go a long way to improving or strengthening your relationships with your team mates at work. Furthermore, a significant percentage of our host families are closely affiliated with the organizations with which our volunteers work. As such, even the evening meal or hanging out around the house can become valuable time during which volunteers
can share their ideas and continue their support of their host organization.

All of this being said, living with a host family is not for everyone. It is very important for volunteers to honor the house rules in their host family and to be punctual. Also, depending on how remote your placement location, host families can be very rustic. Our staff in country can give you a better idea of what exactly you can expect from a host family in any particular community. However, in general, if these things sound like they might pose a challenge for you, we strongly suggest that you look at a placement within commuting distance from BaseCamp Ecuador.
How the Program Works

Our program structure and costing is completely flexible which lets our volunteers ensure that they only pay for exactly the degree of support that they want.

Option 1 - Free Services

Some volunteers prefer to coordinate their own accommodation, meals and other support while overseas.

Anyone is welcome to use our volunteer placement search tool to help in finding a placement that is well suited to their interests. Once someone finds a placement that they wish to work with, they are welcome to make all the rest of their arrangements on their own.

As well, our team of staff overseas are often able to offer a few helpful pointers for volunteers 'doing it on their own'. Just send us an email with your questions and we will put you in touch with our team abroad. We only ask that you keep your requests fairly general, as this type of advice is exactly how our team earn their living. :)

Option 2 - Placement Support - 250 USD

Other volunteers would like assistance in selecting and confirming their placement, but they plan to manage their own accommodation and other expenses on their own.

These volunteers have the option of choosing to only have our assistance with selecting and confirming their placement. This option also includes ongoing placement support while abroad, so a volunteer would be able to ask our team for help if things at their placement were not working out.

In providing Placement Support, our team works with each volunteer through email, telephone and either Skype or Google Hangouts, to ensure that each volunteer has a clear understanding of their placement options. Our in-country staff will put together a custom list of placement options for each volunteer that they believe are the most appropriate matches with the volunteer's background, skills and interests.
Then each volunteer can work with our team both in Canada and abroad to go through each of the options and narrow-down their selection.

Option 3 - Full Program Support

For most volunteers who are volunteering for less than a year, they are looking for an option that includes their accommodation, meals, airport reception, country and program orientation and placement support. This is what our Program Fees are designed for.

We are proud of how over the years we have ensured that our program fees are amongst the most reasonable of any program in the world while we continue to provide exceptional volunteer support both at home and abroad.

Our Program Fees and listings of what these do and do not include are listed below:
## Program Fees Ecuador

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<tr>
<td><strong>Registration Fee</strong></td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Week</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Weeks</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Weeks</td>
<td>1,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Weeks</td>
<td>1,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Weeks</td>
<td>1,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Weeks</td>
<td>1,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Weeks</td>
<td>1,768</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Additional Weeks</strong></td>
<td><strong>175</strong></td>
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Ecuador wildlife and conservation placements require an additional $7 USD per day fee to cover park fees and accommodation. All program fees are listed in US Dollars.
Inclusions & Exclusions

What is Included

- Pre-Departure support
- Placement consultation
- Airport reception & transfer
- 2 Day orientation
- Accommodation (BaseCamp or host family)
- Breakfast and dinner
- Emergency & placement support

What is Not Included

Before Departure

- International flight
- Travel medical insurance
- Visa costs where required
- Work permits where required

While Overseas

- Daily transportation to and from placement
- Transport to airport on departure
- Placement fees if required
Program Dates

Our regularly scheduled program start dates are the first Friday of each month, every month of the year. We strongly recommend beginning your program on one of these dates as this will allow you to go through our orientation alongside other international volunteers.

If you would prefer, our application will also allow you to select a custom start date for your program. Keep in mind that there is an additional fee for a custom start date which ranges from 50 to 75 USD.

PLEASE NOTE:
These dates are the day that volunteers should plan to arrive on the ground in country. We can accommodate arrivals in-country at any time day or night on these dates.