

LATIN AMERICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE (LASC) SOME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA Compiled by LASC & COMHLAMH

Note: The inclusion of an organisation in this list does not constitute an endorsement of their work, and no responsibility can be accepted for any outcome of volunteering with them, or for any inaccurate information presented here. Neither does this document purport to be a comprehensive view of volunteer opportunities. This information was last updated in July 2006.

1. Development & Missionary Agencies based in Ireland

Columban Lay Missionary Programme

Address: St Columban's, Dalgan Park, Navan, Co Meath

Telephone number: 046-9021525 ext 572

Fax number: 046-9022799

Email: clmireland@gmail.com

Website: www.columban.com

Established in the late 1980s, the Columban Lay Mission Programme is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "Columban Lay Missionaries are people whose faith calls them to share their lives with the poor and marginalized. They share the Columban vision of crossing boundaries of country, culture and religion. As people of faith, we envisage a world where women and men of all races, cultures and creeds live life to the full, where there is inclusion, equality and justice for the poor, marginalized and oppressed and where communities and nations live in peace and harmony with each other and all creation."

Countries: Chile, Peru

Activities: Children/young people, community development, conservation/environment, education, health/medical, human rights, other.

Duration: Three years plus.

Requirements:

- A committed Catholic aged between 23 and 40.
- Single or married without any dependent children of pre-school age.
- In good physical and psychological health
- Willing to make a commitment for three years
- have had experience of pastoral or social work

GOAL

Address: PO Box 19, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin, Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)1 2809779

Fax: +353 (0)1 2809215

Email: applications@goal.ie

Website: www.goal.ie

Established in 1977, GOAL is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "To work towards ensuring that those poorest and most vulnerable in our world and /or affected by humanitarian crisis have access to the fundamental needs and rights of life, for example, food, water, shelter, medical attention and literacy."

Countries: Honduras

Activities: Administration/management, capacity building, children/young people, construction, education, health/medical, technical support, other.

Duration: Minimum of one year in general. May be shorter for emergency situations.

Currently not sending Volunteers to Latin America. (as of 16/06/09)

International Service Ireland

Address: 175a Phibsboro Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7, Ireland

Tel: 086- 1732347

Email: internationalserviceireland@eircom.net

Website: www.internationalservice.org.uk

International Service was established in 1953; International Service Ireland was set up in 2003. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "International Service Ireland" (ISI) is currently working to the Vision, Mission & Aims of International Service (UK). International Service is an international development organisation providing skilled and experienced people.

Vision: We envisage a world where poverty and oppression are history.

Mission: Our basic tenet is 'Partners Against Poverty' and we see our role as combating poverty & oppression by strengthening the organisational development of the poorest groups in our countries of operation. Our mission is also to increase global understanding of development issues. IS works to promote long-term development in poor communities in the Third World by working in partnership with local organisations (in Latin America, West Africa and Middle East), non-governmental or governmental organisations or the two in collaboration.

Thematic priorities: sustainable livelihoods, human rights, reproductive and sexual health. **Target groups:** women, disabled people, children and adolescents."

Countries: Brazil & Bolivia

Activities: Administration/management, capacity building, community development, children/young people, disability/special needs, education, health/medical, human rights, technical support, women, other.

Duration: Volunteers must have at least two years' appropriate experience. An appointment is for a minimum of two years.

Medical Missionaries of Mary

Address: "Rosemount", Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Telephone number: 01 2882722

Fax number: 01 2834626

Email: usharpe@indigo.ie

Website: www.mmmworldwide.org

Established in 1937, Medical Missionaries of Mary is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "As Medical Missionaries of Mary, in a world deeply and violently divided, we are women on fire with the healing love of God. Engaging our own pain and vulnerability, we go to peoples of different cultures, where human needs are greatest. Our belief in the inter-relatedness of God's creation urges us to embrace holistic healing and to work for reconciliation, justice and peace."

Countries: Brazil, Honduras

Activities: Administration/management, business, capacity building, children/young people, health/medical, women.

Duration: Minimum of two years

Raleigh Ireland/Raleigh International Youth Development Charity

Address: 20 Faughart Terrace, St. Mary's Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Website: <http://www.RaleighInternational.org>

A not-for-profit organisation, Raleigh International was established in 1978 and Raleigh Ireland was established in 2002.

Stated mission: "Raleigh Ireland is a Raleigh Group for Raleigh International Charity. Raleigh International aims to: inspire young people from different nationalities and backgrounds to realise their potential through working on challenging and sustainable and environmental projects around the world."

Countries: Costa Rica/Nicaragua. These expedition countries are reviewed ever two years, and some countries may be removed as others are added.

Activities: Community development, conservation/environment; construction, other. Expeditions

Duration: From 2/3 weeks to one year.

SERVE

Address: Marianella, 75 Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6

Tel: (01) 6434601

Fax: (01) 4929635

Email: info@serve.ie

Website: www.serve.ie

Established in 2002, SERVE is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "SERVE is an initiative inspired by Irish Redemptorists working in partnership with young Irish adults. SERVE aims to support development projects that work to transform the lives of those who are poor and to overcome acute injustices. SERVE achieves this by: volunteering projects in Ireland, Brazil, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Mozambique; fostering global citizenship by opening opportunities for volunteers from developing countries to participate in service projects in Ireland; offering a Development Education Programme to all participants; and providing an outreach service to youth organisations helping them to creatively engage with Development Issues; engaging in advocacy initiatives."

Countries: Brazil

Activities: Children/young people, community development, construction, disability/special needs, health/medical, women, other.

Duration: From six weeks to six months.

Slí Eile/ Jesuit Volunteer Community

Address: 20 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

Tel: 01 8943 165 ext 25

Email: debbie.moore@sli-eile.com

Website: www.sli-eile.com

Established in 2000, Slí Eile is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "To foster the growth of the already existing informal association of adults (18-35) who are interested or have been involved in our faith and justice activities. To maintain the following characteristics of Slí Eile: open community, faith continuum, inclusive spectrum and committed service, while we respond effectively to Irish young adult reality. To engage Young Adults with the three core values: Spirituality (Ignatian), community and social justice. To create conditions whereby some of those participating in Slí Eile activities engage actively and join in real co-ownership (as/with trustees, board) of Slí Eile, even committing themselves to leadership within the community."

Countries: Colombia, Jamaica

Activities: Children/young people, community development, education, other.

Duration: Three weeks.

Viatores Christi: Travellers for Christ

Address: 38/39 Upper Gardiner Street; Dublin 1

Tel: 01 - 874 9346/872 8027;

Fax: 01 - 874 5731

Email: viatoreschristi@eircom.net

Website: <http://www.viatoreschristi.com/>

Viatores Christi sends lay missionaries (aged 21+) overseas after a part time training course lasting about one year. Experience, professional skills and a Christian commitment are required.

Activities: Medical, Teaching, Community Work, Teaching of Trades.

Countries: Brazil, El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala, Perú

Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM)

Address: All Hallows College, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland

Tel: 01 837 6565

Fax: 01 836 7112

Email: vmmeurgo@iol.ie

Website: www.vmm.cjb.net

Established in 1969, VMM is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "VMM is an international Christian development organisation whose members share their lives, faith, resources and skills to promote equality, respect and dignity for all. VMM works through supporting community development at home and overseas." VMM sends development workers (aged 21+) to Africa and Central America to share their skills and professions, for one or two years.

Countries: Guatemala

Activities: Administration/management; agriculture; business; capacity building; community development; education; health/medical; technical support.

Duration: Six months to two years; contracts can be renewed to a maximum of 6 years on the same project.

Currently not sending Volunteers to Latin America. (as of 16/06/09)

Voluntary Service International

Address: 30 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01-8551011

Fax: 01-8551012

Email: info@vsi.ie

Website: www.vsi.ie

Established in 1965, VSI is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated Mission: "Voluntary Service International is the Irish Branch of Service Civil International (SCI), a worldwide movement working for peace and international understanding through the medium of voluntary work projects, international exchanges and education and awareness programmes. We base our work on the following values: volunteering, non-violence, human rights, solidarity, respect for the environment, inclusion, empowerment, and cooperation."

Countries: Africa, Asia, Latin America Programme: 2 months in many developing countries of these continents

Activities: Administration/management, children/young people, conservation/ environment, construction, disability/special needs, education, other.

Duration: Varies, according to programme type; can range from 2 weeks to 6 months.

VSO Ireland

Address: Office 335, The Capel Building, Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7.

Tel: +353 (0)1- 814 7070

Fax: + 353 (0)1-887 4458

Email: info@vsoireland.org

Website: www.vso.ie

Established in 1958, VSO is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "VSO is an international development charity that works through volunteers. Our vision is a world without poverty in which people work together to fulfill their potential. We bring people together to share skills, creativity and learning to build a fairer world. VSO welcomes volunteers from an ever-increasing range of countries, backgrounds and ages. National agencies in Canada, Ireland, India, Kenya, the Netherlands, and the Philippines recruit volunteers from many different countries worldwide and this international approach allows us to combine and learn from a rich variety of perspectives."

Countries: Guyana, Peru, Honduras, Jamaica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Bolivia.

Volunteer activities: Administration/management, business, capacity building, community development, education, technical support, other.

Duration: Six months to two years

2. Human Rights Work

The Civil Observation Brigades for Peace and Human Rights (BriCO), Human Rights Center Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas

Address: Calle Brasil No. 14, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. Correspondence: Apartado Postal 178, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Tel: (+52) 967-678-7396 / 3548 / 7395

Fax: (+52) 967-678-3551

Email: bricos@frayba.org.mx; cdhbcasas@laneta.apc.org; frayba@frayba.org.mx

Website: <http://www.frayba.org.mx/observadores.php?hl=en>

Human Rights Center Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas is a non-governmental organization in Chiapas, Mexico, which aims to promote and defend human rights, giving priority to victims who find themselves marginalized as a result of their poverty. The Civil Observation Brigades for Peace and Human Rights (BriCO) is a project which started in response to Mexican army attacks on Zapatista communities in 1995. The center called for a Mexican and foreign civil presence in the communities in the conflict. The presence of international observers has helped not only to observe what happens, but also to prevent the occurrence of violations, and as a base for the Human Rights Centre to act to improve the situation in the communities.

Country: Mexico

Activities: This project is carried out as a service to the communities based on three central ideas: accompaniment in the communities, documentation of the context, and solidarity; something that requires national and international work. The centre is always in the need of people to translate materials (from their own homes) so as to distribute and spread information about the human rights situation in Chiapas. Translations in English and French are preferred. If you wish to help us in this matter, please email: cdhfbc@sancristobal.com.mx / comunicacion@frayba.org.mx.

Requirements: Participants must have a letter from solidarity organizations they are active within, must speak fluent Spanish

Duration: At least two weeks.

Peace Brigades International

Address: International Office, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A

Tel: 00 44 20 7713 0392

Email: admin@peacebrigades.org

Website: <http://www.peacebrigades.org/>

Stated Mission: "Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) which protects human rights and promotes nonviolent transformation of conflicts. When invited, we send teams of volunteers into areas of repression and conflict. The volunteers accompany human rights defenders, their organizations and others threatened by political violence. Perpetrators of human rights abuses usually do not want the world to witness their actions. The presence of volunteers backed by a support network helps to deter violence. In this way, we create space for local activists to work for social justice and human rights."

Countries: Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico.

Duration: At least one year.

Requirements: Volunteers must have fluent spoken Spanish, be at least 25 years of age. Training/selection courses are organised two to three times a year in Britain.

Protective Accompaniment in a Zapatista Community, Chiapas, Mexico:

Website: <http://flag.blackened.net/revolt/mexico.html>

The Zapatista Community of Diez de Abril in Chiapas, Mexico is open to foreigners who can come and stay in a spirit of solidarity for a number of weeks or months. The former Irish Mexico Group built links with this community in particular. From January of 1997 to 2000 they, for the most part, had someone staying in Diez or resting in the regional city of San Cristobal de las Casas. Diez de Abril is on land occupied in 1995. Again based upon the principle of protective accompaniment, it is felt by the population that the presence of foreigners in the community reduces the threat of violent repression from the nearby military camp. There is no structure or support organisation for volunteers – a contact of the former Irish Mexico Group who lives in San Cristobal de las Casas is willing to meet with and brief volunteers en route to Diez de Abril, and to introduce them to the local community organisations. Please contact LASC for further information.

Red de Hermandad y Solidaridad con Colombia

Website: www.redcolombia.org

Contact: Gearoid O'Loingsigh, c/o LASC

Country: Colombia

Activities: Human rights work, accompaniment and research.

Duration: 6 months minimum

3. Volunteer Placements and Exchanges

i-to-i Meaningful Travel

Address: Exploration House, 26 Main Street, Dungarvan, Co Waterford, Ireland

Tel: 058-40050 (will call you back if you want)

Fax: 058-40059

Email: mary.hayes@i-to-i.com

Website: www.i-to-i.com and www.volunteertravel.ie

Established in 1993, i-to-i is a for-profit organisation.

Stated Mission: "Since 1994, i-to-i has been driven by the inspiration of making worthwhile travel experiences widely available through opportunities to volunteer and work abroad. This began with a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course designed to give English-speaking travellers certification to help them find work teaching English overseas, and training to teach the language well to people who can gain by it. Since then, i-to-i has grown into a leading specialist in international volunteer projects which have two key aims: (a) to allow people to give something back by contributing to worthwhile projects during their travels; (b) to provide local projects around the world with a consistent supply of trained and committed volunteer workers who work towards their own goals."

Countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Perú

Activities: Business, children/young people, community development, conservation/environment, construction, education, health/medical, other.

Duration: From 1 week to 1 year

EIL Intercultural Learning (Ireland)

Address: 1 Empress Place, Summerhill North, Cork, Ireland

Tel: 021 4551535

Fax: 021 4551585

Email: info@eilireland.org

Website: <http://www.eilireland.org/>

EIL is a worldwide organisation founded in the USA in 1932 as the experiment in international living. Established in 1960, EIL Intercultural Learning in Ireland is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "The Experiment in International Living (EIL) is a non-profit association founded to promote greater understanding, peace and friendship between the peoples of the world. It is the oldest educational exchange organisation in the world involving almost 20,000 people each year on a variety of educational and cultural travel programmes. It is a not for profit, non religious and non political association."

Countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico

Activities: Community development, conservation/environment, education, health/medical, human rights, other.

Duration: 6 weeks to 11 months.

Kids Worldwide - Incawasi

Address: Jr. Tarapaca 580, Cajamarca, Peru.

Tel: +51- 76 344645

Email: incawasi.peru@googlemail.com (Peru), casadocaminho@kidsworldwide.org (Brazil), ceneoh@kidsworldwide.org (Haiti)

Website: www.kidsworldwide.org, www.incawasi.de

Established in 2005, Incawasi is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: Incawasi is a non-profit organization run by local and foreign volunteers in Cajamarca, Peru. Our aim is to improve and develop the educational, social and nutritional situation of children from disadvantaged areas in the city of Cajamarca. We currently care for 38 children between 6 and 14 years old. Kidsworldwide is an umbrella organization online that receives applications from volunteers for over 30 NGO and non-profits they are affiliated with.

Countries: Peru, Brazil and Haiti

Activities: community development, construction, education, health/medical, women, children, orphans.

Duration: Minimum 2 months, no maximum.

Leargas - Youth Work Service

Address: 189/193 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

Telephone number: 01 - 8731411

Fax number: 01 - 8731316

Email: evs@leargas.ie

Website: www.leargas.ie/youth

Established in the early 1990s, Leargas is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "To make an ongoing contribution to Ireland's capacity to provide innovative responses to the developing needs of our citizens in an increasingly interdependent world by: (a) educating, developing and broadening the perspectives of Irish young people and those that work with them by exposing them to international and bilateral cooperation programmes; (b) contributing to innovation in formal and informal education and vocational training policy and systems through involvement in these programmes."

Countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Activities: Children/young people, community development, conservation/environment, disability/special needs, education, other.

Duration: Three weeks to one year

USIT

Address: 19-21 Aston Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland

Tel: 01 6021615

Fax: 01 6778908

Email: workandtravel@usit.ie

Website: www.usit.ie

Established in 1959, USIT is a for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "In addition to the full range of products offered by any travel agent, we have developed a unique range of products specifically for student and youth travellers, including low cost flexible fares, work, travel & volunteer programmes, tailor-made insurance policies, budget accommodation, TEFL and much much more. USIT is also specialist in student and youth work exchange programmes, offering all the information, administration and support needed to work around the world." "From teaching English in deepest Korea to an eco tourism camp in Costa Rica, from tossing pancakes in a dinner in Toronto to being involved in an Aids project in South Africa, the opportunities offered by a Work and Travel Programme bring you to the heart of the matter".

Countries: Peru, Costa Rica

Activities: Community development, conservation/environment, construction, education, health/medical.

Duration: 2 months to 18 months, various programmes in 9 countries

4. Solidarity Brigades (From Ireland and UK)

Cuba Support Group International Work Brigade

Address: 15 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Tel: 087 6785842

Fax: 01 661 1738

Email: cubasupport@eircom.net,

Website: <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~csg/>

The International Work Brigade consists of groups from the solidarity organisations of several Northern European countries. Members of the Brigade (Brigadistas) live for three weeks on a purpose-built camp near Havana where they carry out agricultural or construction work alongside Cubans. They take place twice a year in June and December, for three weeks.

Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign

Address: 129 Seven Sisters Rd, London N7 7QG

Tel: 020 7561 4836 **Fax:** 020 7272 5476

Email: nsc@nicaraguasc.org.uk,

Website: www.nicaraguasc.org.uk/action/index.html

Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign UK Brigades and Study Tours to Nicaragua.

Since 1984 over 800 people from Britain have been to Nicaragua on brigades, study tours and delegations organised by the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign. Brigades are a vital part of NSC's work in that they provide a channel for political and practical support to trade unions, the Community Movement, women's and environmental organisations and agricultural co-operatives.

Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign

Address: The Secretary, Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, Ty Capel Calfaria, Heol y Bedyddwyr, Penygroes, Gwynedd LL54 6NU

Tel: 01286 882134

Email: benica@gn.apc.org,

Website: <http://weblife.bangor.ac.uk/cyfanfyd/aelodau/nsc/wnsc.htm>

Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign organises regular delegations to Nicaragua, five in the past six years. Small groups (between 6 and 12) spend two weeks in the Central American country, with meetings with political parties, trade unions and churches, and visits to remote communities on the Caribbean Coast. People going get an excellent overview of the current situation in Nicaragua, and are expected to work in solidarity with Nicaragua on the return. Typical costs for the two-week visit are £950, inclusive of flight, board, all meals and internal travel.

4. Organisations based in Latin America

ARCAS (Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association)

Address: 4 Ave. 2-47, Sector B5, Zona 8 Mixco, San Cristobal, Guatemala

Tel: +(502) 2478-4096, 2480-7270, 5704-2563 (Colum), 7820-2073 (Parque Hawaii), 5571-5102 (Herlin, Parque Hawaii)

E-mail: arcas@intelnet.net.gt

Website: www.arcasguatemala.com

Established in 1989, ARCAS is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "To strive for the conservation, preservation and research of wildlife; to rescue, rehabilitate and reintroduce into their natural habitat wild animals seized from illegal traffickers; to promote and assist in the creation and management of protected habitat areas for wild animals; to support tropical wild animal veterinary medicine and research; to reproduce and re-introduce endangered wildlife; to raise awareness among Guatemalans about the need to conserve natural resources through a program of education and information dissemination; to develop and promote economic alternatives in rural communities to the unsustainable consumption of natural resources."

Countries: Guatemala

Activities: Conservation, education, internships.

Duration: Completely flexible

Argentina Autonomist Project

Address: U.S. Address: 188 Barre St, Montpelier, VT 05602

Tel: Argentina 011-54-9-11-4156-5847

Tel: U.S. (802) 223-8445

Email: autonomista1@aol.com

Website: <http://www.autonomista.org/>

The AAP organize delegations which offer and insight into the struggle in Argentina at the moment, and include participation in the Enero Autonomo, international meeting of autonomous organizations, microenterprises and human rights activists; visits to Asamblea Cid Campeador, a popular assembly and learn about direct democracy and meetings with the Madres de Plaza de Mayo, who organize since 1977 against repression and for human rights.

Asociación ANAI

Address: Apartado 170 – 2070, Sabanilla, San José, Costa Rica

Tel: +506 224 3570 or +506 224 6090

Fax number(s): (506) 253-7524

Email: info@anaicr.org

Website: www.anaicr.org

Established in 1978, ANAI is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: “Our mission is to help the people of Talamanca design and implement a strategy linking socio-economic development, cultural strengthening and biodiversity conservation. We seek the emergence of a truly grassroots process within the local community that achieves a healthy mix of protected rainforests, wetland and marine areas, managed forests and diverse agro-ecosystems and human services like tourism, and provides Talamanca’s current and future inhabitants with economic stability and an attractive quality of life.”

Countries: Latin America (Costa Rica)

Activities: Agriculture, conservation/environment, internships.

Duration: One week to twelve months.

Centro para Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos (CALDH)

Address: 9.a Ave. 2-59 Zona 1, Ciudad de Guatemala

Tel: (502) 221-1286 /

Fax: (502) 251-8163

Website: <http://www.caldh.org/>

CALDH (The Centre for Legal Action on Human Rights) is based in Guatemala City.

Country: Guatemala.

Activities: Internships for lawyers, project officials and computer technicians are also available, see <http://www.justiceforgenocide.org/internships.html>.

Requirements: Excellent Spanish is needed

Duration: At least three months and preferably six.

Casa Alianza

Website: <http://www.casa-alianza.org>

Email: info@casa-alianza.org

Address: 13 Av. 0-37 Zone 2 Mixco. **Guatemala.**

Tel: 502-24339600.

Fax: 502-24339600 Ext. 141

Email: Guatemala@casa-alianza.org

National Director: Arturo Echeverría J.

Address: Paseo de la reforma 111, Colonia Guerrero, Mexico D.F. 06300 Apartado 61-132, 06600 Mexico D.F., **MEXICO**

Tel: + 525 - 55510-9142

Fax: + 525 –55510-2550
Email: mexico@casa-alianza.org

Address: Apartado 2401 Tegucigalpa, M.D.C. **HONDURAS**
Tel: + 504 – 221-5884
Fax: + 504 – 221-5883
Email: honduras@casa-alianza.org

Address: Del Estadio Nacional, 3 cuadras al norte, 1 cuadra arriba. Detrás del Ministerio del Trabajo, en la dupla norte, Managua Apartado 15 Managua, **NICARAGUA**
Tel: (505) 228-6771
Fax: (505) 268-6174
Email: nicaragua@casa-alianza.org

Casa Alianza is a street children's' organisation which offers volunteer opportunities in Mexico City, Guatemala City, Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and Managua, Nicaragua. They provide services directly to street children, but also engage in lobbying and campaigning to protect the human rights of these children. They offer two different volunteer programmes based in Latin America and one based in Europe. For Latin America based volunteering a minimum six-month commitment is usually, but not always, required. Competence in Spanish is preferred. For details see their website.

Casa Guatemala

Address: 14 Calle 10-63, Zona 1, Guatemala City, Guatemala
Tel: + 502 22325517
Fax: +502 23319408

Email: casagwat@itelqua.com

Website: www.casa-guatemala.org

Established in 1977, Casa Guatemala is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "Casa Guatemala is an orphanage that cares for the nurturing, health and education of over 250 children. These children come from a variety of backgrounds; some have been abandoned, some have been abused, while still others come from families too poor to even provide the basics of a child's needs."

Countries: Latin America (Guatemala)

Activities: Administration/management, agriculture, business, children/young people, construction, education, health, other.

Duration: Six months +; shorter placements may be organised in some cases.

CIS (Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad)

Address: Blvd Universitario, Casa #4, Colonia El Roble, San Salvador, El Salvador
Tel: +503 226-2623
Fax: +503 226-2623

Email: cis_elsalvador@yahoo.com

Web site: www.cis-elsalvador.org

Established in 1993, CIS is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "The mission of the Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad (the CIS) is to promote solidarity and exchange across borders between Salvadoran people and others in the search for development and dignity. The CIS works to promote and strengthen a culture of solidarity that implies accompaniment, respect for the equality of different cultures, and mutual support between people. We focus on using different strategies to promote a solidarity that creates the space for grassroots organization for JUSTICE and DIGNITY. We operate on a model of innovation and participation."

Countries: Latin America (El Salvador)

Activities: Education.

Duration: 9 weeks.

FUNDECI

Address: Apartado postal 2694, Telcor Central, Managua, Nicaragua

Tel: +011 505 2664373 or + 011 505 2683021

Fax: + 505 2663381

Email: fundeci@ibw.com.ni

Web site: www.fundeci.org (website no longer exists)

Established in 1972, FUNDECI is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "FUNDECI's mission is to strengthen democracy at local and national levels through alternative methods which offer equitable and sustainable solutions to the problems of the poor; to contribute to the empowerment of community organizations through leadership training and organizational support; to promote development in Nicaragua based on the International Covenants of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as Civil and Political Rights; to provide medical attention, legal advice and material aid to disadvantaged communities in Managua and rural areas in western and northern Nicaragua."

Countries: Latin America (Nicaragua)

Activities: Agriculture, capacity building, children/young people, community development, conservation/environment, construction, education, health/medical, technical support, women, other.

Duration: One month to one year +.

Iracambi Atlantic Rainforest Research and Conservation Centre

Address: Fazenda Iracambi, Caixa Postal No 1, Rosário de Limeira, Minas Gerais, CEP 36878-000, Brazil

Tel: + 55 32 3721 1435

Email: iracambi@iracambi.com

Website: www.iracambi.com (website also no longer exists/is broken)

Established in 1999, Iracambi is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "We are working to make conservation of the rainforest more attractive than its destruction. Iracambi believes that it is only by working to improve the future of the people who live in the area that we can improve the future of the forest. Volunteers carry out work within our four research priority areas: land use management, forest restoration, income generating alternatives, community understanding and engagement, as well as work which improves the capacity of the Centre."

Countries: Latin America (Brazil)

Activities: Administration/management, business, children/young people, community development, conservation/environment, internships, technical support, other.

Duration: From one month to six months/

Mayacom.org

Address: Panajachel, Solola, Guatemala

Tel: +502- 5293-5756

Email: padma@mayacom.org

Website: <http://www.mayacom.org>

Established in 2002, Mayacom.org is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "Mayacom.org is a network of local non-profit organizations in the highland region of Solola, Guatemala, where the population is mostly Mayan, speaking three of the country's 22 indigenous languages, Tsutujil, Quiche, and Kaqchikel. Communities here struggle with basic development – shelter, plumbing, food and healthcare – which are difficult to address without local collaboration and communications strategies. Our main objective is to educate concerning communications rights and benefits, and to provide and encourage technology for communications. We give workshops with cameras, provide free websites, and network for funding for participating local organizations and their specific needs."

Countries: Latin America (Guatemala)

Activities: Agriculture, community development, construction, education, health/medical, women, other.

Duration: Minimum 6 weeks, no maximum.

Project Mosaic Guatemala

Address: 3a Avenida Norte No. 3, Casa de Mito, Antigua, Guatemala

Tel: +502 7832-0955 (office), +502 58176660 (mobile)

Fax: +502 7832-0955

Email: info@promosaico.org

Website: www.promosaico.org

Established in 1998, Project Mosaic Guatemala is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "PMG is a non-profit, non-governmental resource center dedicated to linking international volunteers, as well as financial and material resources, to Guatemalan partner organizations in need of assistance. PMG believes that volunteerism, in its purest form, is inherently positive and beneficial. Volunteering is one of the most effective means of fostering communication and understanding between people of diverse backgrounds. Through first hand contact, we believe that, together, we can build a future that is more tolerant, just and compassionate. PMG is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-discriminatory organization. PMG is not religiously or politically affiliated."

Countries: Latin America (Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador)

Activities: Agriculture, children/young people, conservation/environment, disability/special needs, education, health/medical, and women.

Duration: From one week to one year.

San Pablo Parish of Merlo in Buenos Aires

Address: Las Marimonias 660, A.Ferrari - Merlo (1723), Prov. Bs As. - Argentina

Tel.: 0220 498-1527

Email: jresich@intramed.net.ar

Website: www.papotam.com/sanpablo/ (website no longer works)

Jose Resich works in the parish of San Pablo, Ferrari neighbourhood in Merlo (west Buenos Aires a traditional working class barrio facing, at present, major economic and social difficulties). The parish is the focal point for the community and father Jose, who is a doctor of medicine and director of the local hospital, (his wages are paid by the hospital and he is not paid by the Church) an articulate practitioner of the principles of theology of liberation ie a grass roots activist, provides the energy and motivation. The day to day running of the parish is a collective affair as you'll see from the website. They feed 600 people (entire families) on a daily basis, run a cultural centre (sponsored by Italians) and grow their own organic food (for own consumption and sale) on a piece of land given to them by the municipality. They have a furniture (a big hit are the armchairs in the colours of the most famous football teams), dressmaking and free tool-hire workshops.

Tumul K'in Center of Learning

Address: P.O Box 159, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize, Central America

Email: tumulkin@starband.net

Website: <http://www.tumulkinbelize.org/>

Established by Maya people, Tumul K'in Center of Learning is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation.

Stated mission: Tumul K'in Center of Learning is a not-for-profit organisation established by Maya people to offer education to the Maya communities of Southern Belize in Central America, to provide empowering, alternative post-primary education based on Maya values to underprivileged Maya children and communities.

Tumul K'in is located on 500 acres of land which is being used for organic agriculture, such as cacao and honey production and eco-cultural tourism which features a Maya medicinal trail and promotion of Maya culture. They also produce livestock and teach agriculture machinery-technology all with the goal of becoming a self-sustainable institution.

Residential program: All of the staff and students live and work together at Tumul K'in in both practical and academic areas. Everyone at Tumul K'in contributes to the self-sustainability of the school with daily contributions to agriculture: food and kitchen production; building and structural maintenance. Students' academic work reflects the intergration of their field and classroom work.

Countries: Latin America (Belize)

Activities: Agro-production, Agro-processing, Eco-cultural Tourism, Sustainable Use of Natural Resource

Volunteer Petén

Address: Parque Ecológico Nueva Juventud, San Andres, Petén, Guatemala

Tel: +011-502-5711-0040

Email: volunteerpeten@hotmail.com

Web site: <http://www.volunteerpeten.com>

Established in 2002, Volunteer Petén is a not-for-profit organisation.

Stated mission: "Volunteer Petén mission is to 1) protect and manage ecological reserves San Andres, Petén, Guatemala, 2) provide educational classes, both environmental and traditional, to local schools, 3) assist and develop small community projects, and 4) provide quality volunteer experiences for international travellers and students."

Countries: Latin America (Guatemala).

Activities: Conservation/environment, construction, education.

Duration: 1 month-3 months

Mision Sucre

Address: Merida, Venezuela

Email: joshabroad@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.misionsucre.gov.ve/>

Stated Mission: created English programme. The program is designed to equip students with the skills to speak, write, and read materials in English while amplifying the community consciousness, democratic participation, and international voice of the people of Merida, in keeping with the humanistic philosophy of the Misión Sucre and the Bolivarian Revolution. The professors are revolutionary organizers from English speaking countries committed to the defense of the Venezuelan process. The program is integrated into and under the control of the Misión Sucre. Courses are absolutely free of charge for all students.

Looking for: they need to bring Bolivarians who are fluent in English to Merida and other municipalities to teach the course. They are looking for experienced activists skilled in community empowerment and communication through messaging and media. Professors should be aware of how language can create, amplify, and perpetuate oppression. Fundamentally we are looking for folks who have a hard core commitment to making the world a humane place and overthrowing this white straight male corporate hegemonic bullshit.

Duration: 4 months from 6th February 2006

5. Course on Volunteering

Comhlamh Issues and Options in Development Work

Address: 10 Upper Camden Street, Dublin 2

Tel: + 353 1 4783490

Fax: + 353 1 4783738

Email: info@comhlamh.org,

Website: www.comhlamh.org

Contact: Comhlamh,

This weekend course is for people considering becoming involved in development work, whether overseas or in Ireland, to allow a space for critical reflection on various issues and options in development work.