



Fast Forward Volunteering Program

VOLUNTEERING IN SAO PAULO

ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN SAO PAULO

Volunteering is about facing adversity and viewing obstacles as proof of your ability to deal with real problems. It means taking on the commitment an organization has for those it assists, and feeling responsible for both its victories and defeats. Volunteering is giving your time and expecting certain rewards, such as thanks, recognition of achievement, and work you enjoy.

Volunteering in Brazil, as in any part of the world, is not an easy task and you will gain many returns for the job you do here. Considering this, along with the benefits to be gained from foreign perspectives, Fast Forward Language Institute has created a successful volunteer program in Sao Paulo that combines true cultural immersion with deep personal rewards.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Fast Forward Language Institute offers an 8-week volunteer program in Brazil.



The volunteer program accepts foreign students from any part of the world who are eager to cooperate with the NGOs that work with us. We evaluate our students not on previous experience with volunteer projects, but on their desire for change, willingness to involve themselves within the organizations' purposes and values, and to exchange their knowledge with professionals who can guide them in carrying out their plans and wishes. Communication is a key element to making the program a success for everyone, as well as respect for organizations' schedules, rules, and behavioral codes.

The first four weeks are devoted to Portuguese classes at Fast Forward Language Institute, if the student has either no previous experience or a low level in the language. It is important for the student to achieve a certain level of Portuguese to get the most out of their volunteering.

The next four weeks are spent on-site in a placement at an organization, chosen by the student, which fits his/her needs or the project he/she wants to develop. Sites include orphanages, youth outreach organizations, children's homes, hospitals, etc.

Students stay with local Brazilian host families (half board) during the four initial weeks of language classes and then share an apartment (shared bedroom) with other volunteers during their placement. Accommodation must be arranged with the school prior to the student's arrival.

Portuguese classes or volunteering may be extended for up to six months, depending on the volunteer's goals.

ABOUT THE PROJECTS

Some examples of the organizations we work with:

TERTIO MILLENNIO develops socio-educational activities through Programa Multiplica, directed at marginalized communities living in urban centers suffering from inequality, injustice and violence.

Programa Multiplica focuses on social and human development, aiming to improve the quality of life of at-risk women and children through socio-educational activities. Their work provides a Learning Orientation Program for children in day care (infant to 6 years old), a Teaching Skills Course, and for women, courses in professional competency accompanied by income generation projects.



GOTAS DE FLOR COM AMOR started in 1992, working with street children in Sao Paulo. They believed these kids, who had little hope or self-esteem, could be rescued from the streets through progressive educational therapy. Sensitive to the growing needs of this segment of the population, in 1993, the program became an NGO aiming at educating at-risk children, teenagers and their families. In 1995, they received permission to develop volunteer-led handicrafts workshops, aided by C&A Institute, CREDICARD Institute, VITAE and many other sponsors.

This institution works with children and teenagers from slums, 5 to 18 years old, also running a center where these kids can stay part-time. The organization develops activities in areas such as Art, Culture, Creativity, Human Values, Environment, Traditional and Alternative Health.

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