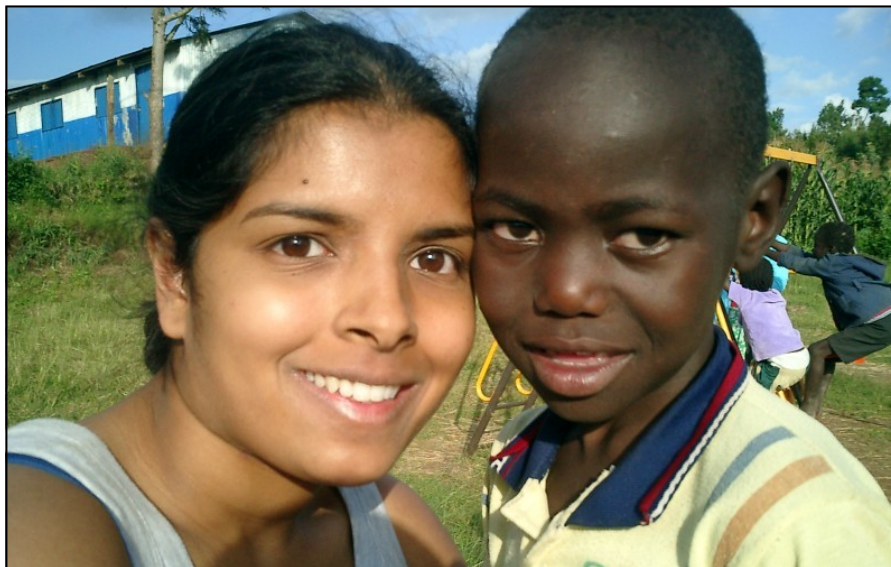


# VOLUNTEER IN KENYA

"I had a conversation about the hardships some of the kids went through to get to the orphanage today and the more I get to know the staff and the kids, the more I realize the significant impact it will have on these children's lives. The orphanage literally saved some of the kids from death. Each child has a story and I am so lucky to hear each one." - Tracy G.



- **Who:** Volunteers in good physical health between the ages of 18 to 70, or under 18 with parental consent.
- **When:** First Monday of any week, minimum stay 1 week and maximum 1 year.
- **Where:** Macuyu, ~45 minutes outside of Nairobi
- **What:** As a volunteer you can try out field work, social work, tutoring children, or farm work. The orphanage functions as a sustainable farm where everyone helps out!
- **How:** First submit your Volunteer Application, interview, then submit payment for the program: \$1135 (1 week) and \$165 each additional week.

"For a country of its size, Kenya sure packs a lot in: mountains and deserts, colourful tribal culture, beaches and coral reefs, and some of Africa's best wildlife attractions. In fact, to say Kenya is Africa in microcosm would not be stretching the point. There are a million different reasons to visit, and picking just one is nigh impossible. Stunning landscapes set the scene, from Kakamega's rainforests to Indian Ocean beaches by way of Mt Kenya National Park; the rolling grasslands of the Masai Mara to searing deserts on the shores of the Jade Sea; with The Rift Valley, home to Hell's Gate National Park, cleaving a massive gash through it all." -Lonely Planet

Discover the *Similarities*...Share the *Differences*...



## PERKS

Guaranteed volunteer placement.

Airport pick-up and transfer.

Basic and safe accommodations in shared volunteer house with traditional meals cooked 3 times a day.

Orientation & Training.

International Medical Insurance.

Full-time pre-departure and local support from our team of coordinators.



Join Our Community to ask questions:



Read blogs from current participants or email us: [info@culturalembrace.com](mailto:info@culturalembrace.com)

# PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs

## *Volunteer in Kenya Offers:*

- First-hand experience helping the local community in Macuyu
- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview
- An opportunity to participate in and learn local cultural activities (e.g.: sports, music, cooking)
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about like safaris in the Masai Mara
- The ability to make lifelong friends from around the globe
- A valuable work experience that strengthens your resume, exhibiting your diligence, independence, and intercultural experiences
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills



## *Cultural Embrace Includes:*

- ✓ **Guaranteed Volunteer Placement Prior to Departure**  
*Cultural Embrace* pre-arranges your volunteer project before you leave home to ensure an easy and hassle-free transition into your new life abroad.
- ✓ **Housing and Board**  
Basic, clean & comfortable accommodations in shared volunteer rooms at the orphanage. Single room available upon request for additional fee. All meals are cooked at the orphanage and consist of typical Kenyan dishes like rice, fruit, and porridge.
- ✓ **Visa Assistance**  
All volunteers to Kenya travel on the tourist visa. Please contact your local Kenya or Kenya Embassy or Consulate to check details, or ask your *CE* coordinator. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your work experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.
- ✓ **Arrival Pick-Up and Orientation**  
All volunteers are picked up at the Nairobi airport by our local coordinator who will then help them settle in and introduce them to the staff at the orphanage.
- ✓ **International Traveler's Insurance with Basic Major Medical Coverage**  
Our policy provides basic medical coverage. Additional policies and premium plans are available at extra cost.

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# PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

## ✓ *Cultural Embrace* “Culture Kit”

Before your departure, we will send you a cultural kit that is filled with useful tips, advice, information, and your insurance card to prepare you for your amazing adventure of living and working abroad.

## ✓ **Full-time Representation**

*Cultural Embrace* provides English-speaking representation in the United States and Kenya prior to, during, and after your placement.

## **Requirements:**

In order to participate in this volunteer program, *Cultural Embrace* requires that you:

- Be between the ages of 18 to 70. Or, if younger than 18, you must have parental or guardian consent
- Have good physical health
- Be open to foreign cultures and living abroad
- Have a high level of responsibility
- Be dedicated to the full term of commitment
- Be a team player
- Enjoy providing a service and working with others in a challenging environment



## **2011 Program Fees:**

*\*Prices listed in US Dollars*

First week in Kenya	Each Additional Week in Kenya
US\$1135	US\$165

*\*\*Please note- Prices are subject to change according to exchange rates.*

## **Project Details:**

Each day volunteers are needed for four main areas of work:

1. **Field Work:** walk and visit families who are hosting children in the community, take supplies and check up on what the family needs
2. **Animal & Farm Work:** planting, tending to and harvesting crops of vegetables and fruits, feeding and caring for the cows, pigs and rabbits. The orphanage functions as a fully sustainable farm so there is lots of work to be done outside!

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# PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

- 3. Social Work:** includes helping in the kitchen (cook on bio-gas), doing laundry, cleaning and making up the dormitories, playing games with the kids and helping with homework when school is in session. The children help with all of the chores and you serve as a role model who is fun loving and enthusiastic. If you have ideas of others ways you can help or implement other projects, please let your coordinator know as all help is much appreciated.
- 4. Large scale construction or maintenance projects** which in the past have included digging a silage pit, constructing outhouses, painting buildings, implementing a bio-gas system and building animal hutches. These require advance notice, additional monetary and supply donations and a large group in order to complete the project

## *How to Apply:*

1. Obtain the **Volunteer Abroad Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of two ways:  
(a) Download the forms from our website at [www.culturalembrace.com](http://www.culturalembrace.com)  
(b) Call *Cultural Embrace* at 1-512-469-9089 or Skype: Cultural.Embrace to have the forms mailed to you within 3-4 days.
2. Read the instructions carefully and *complete all forms*.
3. Submit your completed application packet to:

Cultural Embrace  
7201 Bill Hughes Road  
Austin, TX 78745 USA



## *Completed packets should include the following:*

- Volunteer Program Application
- Signed Volunteer Agreement
- Copy of your passport (information page only)
- Cover Letter in English explaining why you want to Volunteer in Kenya
- Two References: preferably professional and/or character references
- Doctor's note verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
- Two 1½" x 2" official passport-size photos, with your name printed on each photo
- One smiling full-length photo of yourself (for local coordinator to identify you)
- US\$250 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

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# PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

Upon receipt of your application, a *Cultural Embrace* coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minute phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program costs.

We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 3-4 months prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your volunteer placement.

\**Cultural Embrace* requires an expedited application fee for those applying 16 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 12-16 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received fewer than 12 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250.



## *Frequently Asked Questions:*

1) *Why should I pay to volunteer abroad, and where does my money go to with Cultural Embrace?*

*Cultural Embrace* and our local partners in Kenya specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your volunteer project and living abroad. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

You will be assigned an experienced Program Coordinator from our Austin, Texas office. He/She will provide personalized attention to help pre-arrange your volunteer placement, housing and travel needs. Our Program Coordinator will work with our in-country representative to match your requests and background skills with the availability and needs of the local employer. Once you go abroad, you will be assisted by our in-country representative, and will typically have a direct supervisor for your project, as well.

Your program fee includes your customized volunteer placement, housing and meals, airport transfer, orientation, basic international traveler's insurance, and all of the administrative and logistical costs to set up your placement in the States and Kenya. *Cultural Embrace* also pro-rates the expenses for marketing, advertising, and site visits/communication among all of our programs within our fees.

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# PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

## 2) *What are the living conditions like?*

Volunteers share rooms at the orphanage with other volunteers of the same gender, like a hostel. The orphanage has outhouses, shower rooms and a well for a water supply. The living conditions are basic and safe.

## 3) *What type of meals are included?*

Typical Kenyan meals are cooked 3 times a day at the orphanage. This includes many rice dishes, porridge, tea, fruit, ugali, and bread. Vegetarian and dietary meals may be met, however, if you have specific allergies, you may need to provide your own food. Please list any special dietary requirement on your application.

## 4) *What is the application process like, and when will I have confirmation about my volunteer project?*

After C.E. receives your completed application, you will be assigned a personal Program Coordinator who will work with you through your departure and beyond. He/She will conduct ~30 phone/web interview (or in person, if applicable) to discuss your background, goals, and expectations of a volunteer placement. Then, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of the program, and once we receive at least half of this fee, we will send your details to Kenya to find available projects that match your interests. Some companies may want to conduct a phone interview with you, which your Program Coordinator will prepare you accordingly. Placements are confirmed prior to departure with both volunteers and project managers agreeing on the terms, duties, responsibilities, and schedule.

## 5) *How long can I volunteer in Kenya?*

The minimum duration is one week, and you may stay up to one year.

## 6) *What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

Participants going to Kenya for three months or less will travel on a tourist visa good for up to 90 days. If you are planning to stay longer than 3 months, you will have to apply for an extension of your tourist visa. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we try to assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your volunteer experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.



## 7) *What should I wear and bring to Kenya?*

Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Please note that Kenya is a conservative country and the location in which you will be volunteering will probably be more traditional than the larger cities. *Cultural Embrace* will provide you with more details in your *Cultural Embrace* pre-departure kit.

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## PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

8) *Can I volunteer and/or live with a friend or partner?*

Yes, you can enroll in this program with a friend or partner. Please just let us know so we can make sure your trip is coordinated simultaneously. We encourage you to travel and explore your world with others. This enhances your experience and memories, and you can be rewarded for referring others to travel on a CE program.

9) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 3-4 months in advanced of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 3 months in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.



10) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does Cultural Embrace provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. *Cultural Embrace* works with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public. We have a partnership with STA Travel (1-877-236-1048) for great student/youth rates, and they have a very nominal service fee if you need to make any changes before or during your travels.

11) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my volunteer placement?*

You should first speak with your project supervisor or manager to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, then please contact your local representative in Kenya, as well as let *Cultural Embrace* (Austin office) know so we may diplomatically mediate on your behalf. Please note that you will be assigned an in-country representative that will assist you with any questions or concerns. We also encourage you to fill out our program evaluations.



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## PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

12) *Is there someone I may speak to about their experience on this program, and being abroad?*

Yes, we have a network of current and past travelers that are happy to communicate with you. Due to confidentiality, please contact our Austin office to receive a list of names and contact information of participants and alumni that have agreed to be contacted by others. Additionally, we encourage you to check out, use, and get involved with our social media community. These community sites will provide great insight of what you should expect on your adventure abroad. Plus, we provide additional discounts to our community members!

**Facebook Page** (<http://www.facebook.com/CulturalEmbraceTravel>)

**Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/culturalembrace>)

**Blogger** (<http://www.culturalembrace.blogspot.com/>)

**Youtube** (<http://www.youtube.com/user/CulturalEmbrace1>)

### ***A Few Words. . .***

At *Cultural Embrace*, we want to facilitate experiences that, first and foremost, help individuals have a safe and healthy time abroad while becoming better acquainted with both themselves and the richly textured cultures of the world around them. Our partnerships with companies, non-profits, and NGOs grant program participants the opportunity to explore Kenya first-hand while adding valuable content to their resumes. Volunteering in Kenya is, putting it shortly, a tremendously edifying experience that is sure to leave you with lasting memories and a renewed sense of purpose. So do yourself a favor: call *Cultural Embrace* straight away and let us start planning your once-in-a-lifetime international adventure!

*For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@culturalembrace.com](mailto:info@culturalembrace.com) or by phone at 1-512-469-9089 or by Skype: Cultural.Embrace.*



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