



## PORTUGUESE CLASSES + VOLUNTEERING IN MACEIO, BRAZIL



### ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN MACEIO

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.

Fast Forward Language Institute has created a successful volunteer program in Maceio 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.

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

## ABOUT THE PROJECTS

Examples of the organizations we work with:

**LAR DA MENINA** works as a shelter for at-risk girls who spend the whole week there. There volunteers can work with dance classes, arts, teaching English or recreational activities and handicrafts.



**CASA DE ADOÇÃO RUBENS COLAÇO** is an orphanage in Maceio for children sent by the State Department of Children and Juveniles. It is divided into two sections: school age children from 6-10 years and the nursery with children from 0-5. Volunteers may work with one both groups. Volunteers may develop art, recreational or educational activities with the older ones. Working with the smaller ones usually involves changing diapers, washing and playing.

**SOCIEDADE EUNICE WEAVER** works with at-risk girls left in their care during the week. Volunteers who work at this institution will develop recreational activities with the girls: dance classes, arts, music, teaching English, and handicrafts.



**LAR SEMENTES DO AMANHÃ** assists boys from 5 to 14 years old. These boys have families, but due to high risk backgrounds are placed with the NGO during the week. Volunteers can work with recreational activities, art, culture and activities to enrich their learning process.



**ADEFAL** works with handicapped kids, teenagers and adults. They need volunteers who work in the medical field, such as physiotherapists, doctors, nurses, and medical assistants, to carry out specific activities.

**LAR SÃO FRANCISCO DE ASSIS** cares for about 70 senior citizens. Most of them

have no family or families who are unable to take them in. Some are found on the street and taken there. This institution needs volunteers who work in the medical field to develop activities concerning their areas and specifications.

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