

The texts are from:

ICYE Brazil

Volunteering Profile 2025–2026

Casa Madre Giovanna

Clínica Esperança

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UBUNTU

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Introduction

This Work Profile gives you the possibility to know a bit more about our Long Term and Short Term working placements within the ICYE programme. We ask you to read the following information about our social projects carefully. You can make a selection of the project you prefer to work in and provide your list of preferences to your Sending Organization.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have more questions about the work placements: info@icye.org.br

We are looking forward to welcoming you here in Brazil!

ICYE Brazil Team

Volunteering in Brazil

Volunteering is a unique experience, especially when it is done by people who are willing to become involved in another social and cultural reality. In Brazil, most social projects are located in needy/poor communities, where volunteers can participate in social work looking for the benefits of their actions towards those types of communities. Being a flexible, active and dynamic person makes it easier for the volunteer to find more opportunities to become involved in and facilitate his/her adaptation process.

Useful information about the social projects

The candidates coming to Brazil in order to take part in the Long Term Program have to choose and inform the Sending Organisation in which placement they would like to work at and why. They should write as much information about their skills, abilities, and ideas as possible: in this way, it will be easier for us to place them in a social project according to their profile and preferences.

All the following work placements have already received volunteers in the past few years, but we cannot guarantee that all of them will be available when you come here. In case your "chosen" social project is not available, we will place you in another project that is very similar to your first choice, according to your skills, profile, and expectations.

In social projects in Brazil, most people do not know a second language - such as English - and may not be able to help you so much upon your arrival in the project... For this reason, basic Portuguese knowledge (or Spanish) is required in order to get ongoing communication: the more Portuguese you know, the easier work activities get, and the more opportunities appear for you.

The role of the volunteers in the social project is important. The educators are expecting a volunteer who will be enthusiastic, proactive and willing to become involved. As most projects do not have a SPECIFIC ROLE to offer to the volunteer, you should strive, be creative and self-confident to develop your own activities/workshops, always keeping in mind the responsibility of asking the people involved (project coordinators, staff) about the possibilities of doing such things.

The first part of this Profile is a list of the Projects available for a Short Term Program (2 to 12 weeks) and also a Long Term Program (6 or 12 months); the second part, is a list of the project reserved for the Long Term Program.

Most projects are located in the city peripheries or in needy communities, so you have to be aware of possible dangers when walking around alone in these regions, especially during nighttime, and after work. Always follow the advice given by your colleagues at work or by us.

We will always give you support when it is needed, but we expect that you want to join proposed activities and also will be interested in making your own proposals to develop different activities or workshops once placed in the project.

Long Term Volunteers normally will be working about 35 hours weekly, every day from Monday to Friday, with a free morning or afternoon. The projects provide the volunteer lunch at midday and snacks during the morning and the afternoon, depending on how long the volunteer will be staying at the project.

It can happen that, at the beginning of the program, you could feel that there is not so much work to do in the project. This is normal in every adaptation process because you do not know the work, the children, and the educators' staff yet and probably your Portuguese knowledge is not so good. Things will change and get better soon, according to your flexibility and adaptation.

An important point about working on a project as part of a team is that you will not receive special treatment for being an exchanger. You must try to adapt yourself to the real demands of the project and not vice-versa. None of the projects offer any kind of training.

ICYE Brasil is responsible for the costs of volunteer transportation from the living placement to the project (buses, local train, or sometimes you can go walking or by bike). You have to be prepared to catch buses alone, but do not worry because the bus system is quite an efficient means of transport.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU SOON IN BRAZIL!

SOCIAL PROJECTS

Casa Madre Giovanna

- CITY: PORTO ALEGRE
- FIELD: EDUCATION
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

The project Casa Madre Giovanna was born in 1995 to receive and support children who used to stay on the streets of Campo da Tuca District, a poor area with many social problems such as child work, adolescent pregnancy, and drug abuse. The project has grown considerably since then and counts with a new and better structure since 2000. Nowadays, it receives more than 70 children from 5 to 15 years old, divided into 3 age groups and coming from families at risk (drug addiction, lack of male figures at home, strong poverty, etc). The mission of the social project is to help the children from the local community develop skills, knowledge, and values and to give them the chance for a better future. The idea is to avoid children from staying on the streets, and to stimulate their social awareness, responsibility, and will to get over the limits of their family situation; they can be reckless but are very sweet and needy for love.

ACTIVITIES

The educators try to encourage the skills and interests of the kids through different activities, such as educational and pedagogical activities, music and art workshops, sports, lectures, and debates (about social themes, drugs, sexuality, health...), Capoeira and dance, English lessons and the promotion of activities for their inclusion in the community. The volunteers will help the educators during these activities; will participate in the games and sports with the entire group; they will have to stay sometimes just with a small group of kids, helping them in some specific activities (reading, starting to write, homework...) or proposing some new workshops (storytelling, simple music, arts, English lessons, sports...). They will also help in the kitchen or with administrative work, if necessary, or visit the families of the children at home.

OBSERVATION

Small and simple project placed in a favela, one of the poorest areas of the city. Good for volunteers who prefer a more "familiar" situation, as the staff is small and very receptive.

Clínica Esperança

- CITY: PORTO ALEGRE
- FIELD: HEALTH AND CHILDOOD
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS; KIDS WITH HIV OR HEALTH PROBLEMS

It is a charity project founded in 1997 that works as a "Temporary Home" that provides cares, food and activities for kids who have big personal and social problems (abuses at home, drugged parent, familiar in jail...); some of the children also have health problems (HIV, physical problems, or mental disorders...).

It normally hosts between 20 to 40 kids, from 0 to 15 years old, for a period that can be some days to some months, until they can come back to their houses or to a new one.

The little children stay all day long there, as it works as a kindergarten too; the older children attend school part time and the rest of the time they have activities at the project or outside. The project is open all day long; it has a simple structure, with a big building with common spaces, rooms for activities and meetings, kitchen and dining room, bedrooms and the kindergarten; outside there is a little park and open space to play. It is located in a poor community about 40 min from city center by bus.

ACTIVITIES

Volunteers basically assist staff in daycare and supervise children in their

daily activities such as games, storytelling, dancing, painting, helping in studies, and meals; the children live at the project so it is important to make them feel good and well accepted, to listen to their histories and needs, to play with them. The project needs a volunteer who could create and develop some activities alone (inside or outside) with cheap materials: it could be with sports, games, reading histories, singing, proposing simple artworks, singing, dancing... any kind of activity is welcome!

OBSERVATION

The volunteer needs to have patience, maturity, not be afraid to work with children with health problems and to be pro-active, as there are also moments without structured activities, in which the kids just stay together (the volunteer cannot expect a rich program with many workshops).

Integração dos Anjos

- CITY: PORTO ALEGRE
- FIELD: EDUCATION, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN

Integração dos Anjos is an organisation founded in 2005 aimed at the development of children from needy communities. It works as an informal and complementary educational environment that stimulates the kids to develop abilities and skills, providing them support and assistance.

The project receives 60 to 80 children from 6 to 15 years old, divided in two big age groups (6 to 9 and 10 to 15 years old): in these groups, the educators promote pedagogical and recreational activities. Volunteers (local or international) can promote workshops according to the projects needs and resources.

The children who study at school during the morning stay in the project during the afternoon and vice versa; all are from poor communities close to the project. There is also a kindergarten with a good structure, where the little children from 0 to 6 years old receive assistance all day long so that their parents can go to work (only female volunteers are accepted in the kindergarten)

ACTIVITIES

The volunteers will participate in the educational activities and sports, helping the educators; in particular, it could be interesting if he/she likes football, as it is the favourite sport that the children always want to play. Very welcome are volunteers who would like to run one or more workshops like building and playing with recycling material - Music, percussion, dance, theatre - Games (inside or outside) and sports.

Cibai Migrações

- CITY: PORTO ALEGRE
- FIELD: HUMAN RIGHTS
- TARGET PUBLIC: MIGRANTS

CIBAI Migrações is a civil association with no government ties, characterized as an entity for the Defense and Guarantee of Rights, with a focus on labor and social insertion - socio-occupational integration. It was founded in 1958 by the Missionaries of São Carlos – Scalabrinians. Its mission is to welcome, protect, promote, integrate and celebrate with migrants. The institution aims to plan and execute programs and projects, in a permanent, planned, and continuous way, aiming at the defense of social rights, the strengthening of protagonism, autonomy and sustainability, and respect for the cultural diversity of migrants who are especially in situations of social vulnerability.

ACTIVITIES

CIBAI Migrações offers several activities that aim to prepare and encourage entrepreneurship among migrants and refugees served by the institution, such as guidance and assistance with documentation, Portuguese courses for migrants, training on entrepreneurship, advice on preparing the Business Plan and registering the MEI, seed capital to boost business, management accounting and digital marketing workshops, among other initiatives. The volunteer will be able to help in any of these activities, according to his/her interests.

UBUNTU

- CITY: ALVORADA
- FIELD: EDUCATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Umbuntu is a non-profit organization, founded in 2020 by members of the board and volunteers of ICYE-Brazil. Our fundamental principles are based on the African philosophy Ubuntu which teaches us that "A person is a person through other people". Our aim is to work in developing urban farming and agroforestry to ensure food security and food safety to socially vulnerable populations.

Through waste treatment, bioconstruction, renewable low-cost energy solutions, as well as, employment and income generation and social work with underprivileged people we fight

social inequality and create environmental awareness. Currently, we have more than 1.000 square meters of land dedicated to agroforestry, from which more than one ton of organic food has already been harvested and distributed to over 50 families. Our first four sustainable buildings have been used for different activities and workshops from language unconventional edible plants processing.

ACTIVITIES

Different activities take place in our facilities, agroforest and vegetable garden. Umbuntu offers a wide range of workshops and outdoor activities as capoeira, percussion, dance, theater, handcraft classes, pedagogical activities, as well as field trips related to environmental issues to different locations. The volunteers will participate in the daily organic farming and agricultural related activities of the project. They will have the possibility to help with the cooking and baking of organic food for the community, gardening for vegetables and flowers (weeding, planting, irrigating, harvesting, etc) and development and renovation of our bio constructed buildings. The volunteers will also have the chance to work with social media activities, fundraising and advertising.

OBSERVATION

The project is in the poorest community of the poorest city of Rio Grande do Sul. The volunteers will be working with socially vulnerable people in the edge of the city and society.

Forquilha City Hal

- CITY: FORQUILINHA, SANTA CATARINA
- FIELD: CATARINACHILDREN AND ADULT EDUCATION, GENERAL ASSISTANCE
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN, TEENAGER, WOMEN, COMMUNITY

The city of Forquilha is a small city (about 22,000 inhabitants) placed in the south of Brazil, in Santa Catarina State, close to Florianópolis; it was founded by German and Italian immigrants and the influence of these cultures is still alive there. The City Council is very linked to the local problems and has created some sectors that support different needs and interests of the community. These projects are divided in the following areas:

Cultural section: workshops of music, culture and English (for the citizens in general), arts (handcraft workshops for mothers who have no work), pedagogical assistance (kindergarten for poor children);

Environmental Section: in the local ecological park a Foundation spreads the importance of recycling, preserving the nature, taking care of the animals, working also with the re-education of the citizenship;

Sport section: they organized a project in which a sport teacher once a week goes to a disadvantaged district to stay with about 50 kids and organize games and sports with them;

Human rights area: actions that work through the CRAS, institution that offers basic social assistance and realizes social work with the families to strengthen the familiar protective function, prevent internal breaks, to promote the access and use of rights that can guarantee a better life; it organizes different kind of workshops for the kids and younger (drug prevention, sexual education, recreational activities etc.) and for the parents too, to prepare them to the work market (makeup, styling, fashion, cinema etc);

Health area: the local Pastoral Institution gives support and assistance to the poorest part of the community composed by pregnant and young mothers with their babies and little children (such as attention to prevention, health and nutrition information, etc); the CAPS (Centro Atenção Psicossocial) takes care of mental disabilities and people with health problems.

ACTIVITIES

The volunteer at first will be able to know all the works realized and the institutions, she will visit and pass some times with the different coordinators, so that later she can choose which kind of help she wants to give and where she prefers to act; of course, she can stay in more than one area, give different assistance to different public and organize workshops, according to her interests and skills, but also to the needs and interests of the target public and institution she will work with.

OBSERVATION

Open to one female volunteer only, 18 to 30 years old, proactive and motivated to help people in disadvantaged situations. The placement is in a little city and not in a capital, so she will be able to go to work by bike; the host placement will be in a nice local host family composed of former ICYE volunteers who have already received many exchanges.

Centro Diaconal Evangélico Luterano – CEDEL

- CITY: PORTO ALEGRE
- FIELD: EDUCATION, YOUTH, CHILDREN
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

Centro Diaconal Evangélico Luterano - CEDEL, is a philanthropic project born in 2000 and based on social and assistant work with about 100 children and adolescents from 6 to 16

years old. The mission of CEDEL is to contribute to the global development of society, with learning based on respect, love, autonomy with responsibility. The objective is to develop educational processes and actions which can transform the local culture in a no-violence culture and to strengthen the familiar and communitarian ties of children and families living in the area, all in socially risk situations. CEDEL provides a safe space in which the children are listened to and stimulated to reflect and interact. Children who study at school in the morning, stay in CEDEL in the afternoon and vice versa: they are attended through a program called Programa de Serviço de Apoio Sócio Educativo (SASE); there are other two programs turned to integrate the families and the local community: Núcleo de Apoio Sócio Familiar (which support more than 40 poor families) and Telecentro (informatic center open to the community).

ACTIVITIES

CEDEL offers alternative education through different activities, such as informatics, language lessons, sports and games, art workshops, dance... All these activities want to permit children to understand the importance of autonomy, of sense of responsibility and cooperation, to exercise their citizenship. Besides the normal activities, there are several projects in which the volunteer will be able to participate and help: Citizenship and computing school; Environmental Education; Bio-dance; bringing the kids to a Tennis Project; Integration among schools; gardening; increase self-confidence through sports (depending on the semester). He/she will also be asked to promote workshops in one or more areas: Sports and recreational areas (in particular tennis and soccer), music (singing, playing instruments, dance, theatre...), arts (drawing, painting, handcraft...), language and informatics lessons.

OBSERVATION

Small and simple project placed in a favela, one of the poorest areas of the city. Good for volunteers who prefer a more "familiar" situation, as the staff is small and very receptive.

CESMAR – Centro Marista

Founded in 1996, CESMAR is a Catholic Social Centre that provides alternative education and social opportunities for socially risk children and adolescents aged from 3 to 19 years old. Cesmar's main aims are to promote physical integrity for children and adolescents, regular intellectual and emotional growth, and happy childhood in a safe environment; to provide psychological and pedagogic advice: every child and teenager receives professional advice when necessary; to offer learning opportunities through informal education and leisure time activities. The project assists about 1500 people, offering the community also an internet point, library, dentist assistance, legal and psychological support for the families, and so on for free. It is a very big social project with many buildings, sports facilities, and a good

structure, so it can provide many kinds of activities and workshops (sports, informatics, language lessons, dance, art workshops, theatre, ecological workshops, music, capoeira, special trip and so on...).

It has a lot of open space, nature, and animals, so there are recycling and ecological workshops and children learn to take care of animals; on some special dates, the educators organise dance, theatre, or music performances with the children too. Located on the same grounds as Cesmar, there is a Marista high school that offers education to about 360 students. The school is the result of a long-standing demand from the local community. It provides quality education for children and young people in situations of social vulnerability. There is also a Technological Education center comprising a part of human development, economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection. There are developed various leadership projects and empowerment of young people and adults in the community.

ACTIVITIES

Volunteers will assist staff with general non-formal education, being involved in all recreational and sport activities. According to the project needs and the volunteer's experiences and skills, Cesmar offers a wide space of several proposals of activities that can be developed by the volunteer. There is the possibility of giving English lessons at the high school. Volunteers with very good language skills and work experience might be able to join projects at the Technological Education centre.

OBSERVATION

Very big and good structure inside a very poor community, it has many activities in different areas; it gives space to the volunteers (until 2) to organise and propose new activities.

Movimento Escola da Vida

- CITY: PORTO ALEGRE
- FIELD: EDUCATION
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN

Movimento Escola da Vida is a Non-Governmental Organisation that originated from the initiative of a social educator who, in 1984, started to gather poor kids in the streets of Porto Alegre and teach them how to read and write. By doing this, she was not only helping the kids, but she was also aiding the community as a whole, since the parents of those kids gained time to look for jobs, pursuing to end their unemployment condition. Escola da Vida was moved to a new and bigger structure in 2007. Nowadays, the project aids over 80 children from 2 to 6 years old, working at a kindergarten where needy kids from the community spend the whole day so that their parents can go to work. The school also

promotes, on Saturday, the formation of young people, organizing educational workshops of assistance and professional orientation as well as handcrafting workshops for women. Today the main goal is to develop awareness about the support for needy people as an essential component of a better society, in which people can live together within a more supportive and peaceful environment; an important objective is to develop the psychological, affective, cognitive, social and spiritual system of the children.

ACTIVITIES

The children receive food, attention, love and can participate in activities appropriate for their ages, such as drawing, painting, dance, games, corporal expression, simple language classes, art project activities, trips, and visits to local interesting places.

The volunteer will take care of the children during these activities but also in the daily moments (distribution of meals, teeth brushing...), will play together (games, body expression, simple sports, music, dance...), help in the pedagogical games (storytelling, drawing, plastiline...) and participate in the activities and workshops in which his/her presence is necessary. Working with the older children, he/she will also work with sports, English and informatics lessons, manual work, etc. The volunteer will be able to propose his/her own activities too.

OBSERVATION

The project is a kindergarten placed in a simple structure in a very poor area and only receives very poor children from problematic families.

Fundação Casemiro Bruno Kurtz / ACM Cruzeiro

- CITY: PORTO ALEGRE
- FELD: EDUCATION, YOUTH
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

Associação Fundação Casemiro Bruno Kurtz is part of the YMCA organisation and since its foundation in 1976 is a charity project seeking to offer a program focused on human, cultural and social development education for children, young people, and families from the local community. It offers many activities to kids from 7 to 18 years old, such as sports, music, theatre, capoeira, pedagogical activities, languages, computer and art classes, and other manual workshops such as recycling paper, making candles, and soaps. It also has in the

same structure a kindergarten for little children until 6 years old and organises workshops for older people. The team consists of about 25 paid staff, trainees, and volunteers (pedagogues, experts on nutrition, social workers, psychologists, and administration staff).

To know the project, the volunteers will be initially asked to assist and participate in all the different areas: sports, recreational, pedagogical, and artistic areas... He/she will also get to know the different age groups. Later, according to his/her experiences, skills, and project needs, he/she will be able to choose to help in some workshops and activities such as street dancing, sport, music, capoeira, theatre and corporal expressions, informatics, pedagogical activities, art and painting, ecological workshops...He/she will have the possibility to organise some personal workshops or activities too (eg. previous volunteers have organised origami workshops, box, and baseball activities, and visit to local parks...).

OBSERVATION

The project is very organised and big and it was the first one to receive ICYE volunteers: from 1987, it receives 1 to 3 ICYE volunteers every year. Good project for those who love playing sports.

Associação Legato

- CITY: CANOAS (about 10 Km from Porto Alegre)
- FIELD: INCLUSION, MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES, ARTS
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN AND YOUTH (PHYSICAL/MENTAL DISABILITIES)

Associação Legato is an organisation aimed at the inclusion of people through art. In order to create opportunities, this association was established in August 2008 for the community. The Legato Association with projects aimed at inclusion of Persons with Disabilities through Music, Dance and Theatre. It consists of children, youth and adults who are or are not included in canoense community, Porto Alegre and the Metropolitan Region. It's President Renata Flores da Silva, who has a degree in music from UFRGS and is a specialist in Relational Psychomotricity and since 2000 has served as a major supporter of the inclusion of People through art. There are countless number of activities and workshops offered to the kids.

ACTIVITIES

Workshops and training to prepare the teens for the labour market (from 16 years old). Usually in the morning they do preparation for the work for 20 teens with low disabilities. Often in the afternoon there are activities for 15 kids with medium disabilities. Adaptation and rehab through art for kids from 2 years old. Workshops for about 25 kids with different disabilities and difficulties in school learning; Art group (performances and shows with handicapped kids and monitors and teachers to promote the integration); Educational service with specialists;

Activities to reinforce health and environmental awareness and integration into the local community; Groups of parents (to share experiences and to learn a job). The volunteer can prepare english lessons, culture activities that promote social learning, art workshops (music, theatre, dance, acrobats), stimulation for the achievement of autonomy.

OBSERVATION

The volunteer must have a commitment to the education of disadvantaged children and will need patience, maturity and responsibility to realize the work with these special children.

Centro Franciscano Pedro Chaves Barcelos

- CITY: ALVORADA (about 10 Km from Porto Alegre)
- FIELD: EDUCATION
- TARGET PUBLIC: CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

The Franciscan Centre Pedro Chaves Barcellos began its activities on July 25, 2005 and it is maintained by the Charitable and Literary Society of São Francisco de Assis. It is located in Alvorada. The Franciscan Centre acts as a charity, providing social assistance services with the communities of São Pedro, Piratini, Tijuca and others located near the institution. Thus, this work is referenced by CRAS Piratini. The main aim of the program is to offer the people that receive Social Assistance effective quality care which provides the training of the beneficiary through structured team planning. To enable the pursuit of autonomy and fight in defence of life, opposing the social risks and the reality in which the individuals are inserted.

ACTIVITIES

The volunteers will have to attend the groups in their opposite shifts of school, and they will help the educators to minister their classes and their workshops. Each group has a reference educator and a specific work schedule matching the children and teenager's development step. The educators work from a generator subject and a transversal subject, which are chosen by the participation of the kids and also by the demand of the families and the neighbourhood community. Beyond their activities with the reference educator, workshops as informatics, crafts, dancing, music, sport, English, graffiti, serigraph and audiovisual are also offered. Nonetheless, optional workshops are offered (weekly given by specific teachers): dancing, painting, anime and mangá, percussion, table tennis, music, art and decoration.