

Good Shepherd Volunteers

www.gsvolunteers.org

Good Shepherd Volunteers collaborates with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to provide full-time volunteers with the opportunity to work in social service ministries and to use their God-given talents serving women, adolescents, and children affected by poverty, violence, and neglect. Developing relationships with the marginalized of our world empowers volunteers to grow in knowledge and faith that inspire them to lead a life of seeking justice.

Our volunteers **live in community with one another** and strive to learn more about **social justice, community, simplicity, and spirituality**.

Position: 2 positions available, **Work with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd**, Itauguá, Paraguay

To determine where specific gifts and skills can best be utilized, each volunteer spends the first months of service learning about the different programs run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Paraguay. Once each volunteer discovers where (s)he'd like to focus his/her energy, (s)he chooses 2-3 programs to devote him/herself to for the remaining service time. Based on volunteers' past experiences, potential position responsibilities for the various programs are listed below.

Position Responsibilities:

- Facilitate groups with adolescent men/women regarding self-esteem, anger management, stress management, and relaxation
- Organize activities with youth to provide empowering creative productivity (i.e. baking bread to sell in the community)
- Assist in development of presentations focused on conflict resolution, celebrating diversity, etc.
- (Co-)Facilitate classes/groups (i.e. Physical Education, English, Dance, Drama, etc.)
- Teach or co-teach classes to enhance literacy and writing skills in Spanish; also potential opportunity to teach English as a second language with students
- Mediate conflicts between students/residents as needed
- Assist in planning and implementing of group activities, focused on enhancing individuals' ability to creatively express themselves, enjoy recreational activities, and relate to others in a healthy way
- Work on the development/organization of Handcrafting Justice within the community (See www.handcraftingjustice.org for more information on this fair-trade program.)
- For more information on specific programs run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, please see <http://www.gsvolunteers.org/paraguay.htm>

Position Qualifications:

- Desire to work with women & children in a developing country
- Flexibility and patience in the accompaniment of marginalized persons, with a focus on building relationships and empowering individuals
- Ability to work independently and also with Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Openness to fully integrating oneself into another culture's language, traditions, foods, and ways of life
- Ability to take **initiative** and creativity with tasks as decided by in-country sisters/staff at programs
- Must have direct service experience through work or volunteering
- Must be 21 years of age or older with 2 years of college/work experience
- Spanish language high proficiency/fluency
- Experience in a developing country through work, study, or service experience
- Must be willing to raise between \$4000-\$5000 to help support international program costs

Benefits:

- Housing and transportation costs
- Modest monthly stipend
- Emergency/Catastrophic health coverage only (no dental except for emergencies)

- Cross cultural training, orientation before departure, in-country retreat facilitated by GSV staff during site visit
- Vacation opportunities as appropriate to service schedule and needs of programs

Application Deadline: February 1, 2008 (positions filled on a first come first serve basis, the earlier the better!) Please visit www.gsvolunteers.org and hit the “apply now” button for an application.

Start date: Sunday, August 17, 2008

End date: July 31, 2010

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