

Where Your Skills and Commitment to Health Are Desperately Needed: Volunteer Vacations with Global Volunteers

IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE IN HEALTHCARE, A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE, AND A DESIRE TO GIVE, GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In many of the countries in which we work, local people lack access to even the most basic healthcare. We partner with local institutions around the globe who provide health care services to disadvantaged populations. The services provided by our partners range from primary health care, to hospital care, care for the elderly, and services for children with particular mental and physical development needs.

As a person experienced in healthcare, you can contribute in a number of ways. Volunteering with us, you may care for youth or the elderly in institutional living facilities. You may provide bedside care for patients who are hospitalized or even have the opportunity to assist licensed health professionals provide clinical services. Through your service, you will gain an insiders' view of local service delivery practices and the health challenges faced by the particular community you serve. The following is the list of countries where we partner with health care institutions.

CONSIDER JOINING US ON ONE OF THESE UNFORGETTABLE SERVICE PROGRAMS.

Xi'an, China: Volunteers assist at the *La La Shou (Hand in Hand) Day Center* that serves autistic and special needs children. Programs here are designed to provide learning and social activities for children, as well as physical and speech therapy. Volunteer assistance is a critical contribution to the center's goal to provide one-on-one attention to their children. Anyone can be of service here. Additionally, the *La La Shou* staff have expressed a particular need for individuals interested and knowledgeable in physical and speech therapy – and other forms of therapy using crafts and music.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands: Global Volunteers serves people with a wide range of health care needs, partnering with a number of different organizations on the island. The local *Disability Action Team (DAT)* and *The Creative Centre* have requested volunteers with interests in physiotherapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy to assist in home and institution-based care. Volunteers with other interests and skills may also serve in a variety of capacities at *The Cook Islands Red Cross* and *Are Pa Metua* (senior centre).

Quito, Ecuador: Volunteers are needed to care for pre-school children from families of meager means working in partnership with *The Fundacion de Damas Calderonenses (FUNDAC)*. This local cooperative was founded by group of mothers who needed child care for their children while they were at work. In addition to contributing to the effort to provide a nurturing, stimulating and safe environment, we are exploring options to provide health care for these children.

Akrade, Ghana: We partner with a government, primary health care clinic that with Global Volunteers assistance is in the process of being upgraded to a full service clinic with a lab and maternity ward. This facility serves as a first point of contact for a large catchment area in a rural

setting. In addition to clinic based services, clinic staff conduct outreach clinics for vaccinations and well baby exams. There is also an HIV/AIDS voluntary counseling and testing site linked to this facility. Health care professionals with public health backgrounds, family physicians, and midwifery have been particularly helpful in the past.

Chennai, India: Our partners in India include children's homes and *St. Thomas Hospital*, a large state-of-the-art hospital. The hospital also serves the economically disadvantaged people in the community via a network of smaller, neighborhood dispensaries. Health care professionals of all backgrounds (e.g. general practitioners, medical students, nurses, dentists, and other) have been requested to assist with patient care in the hospital and its smaller affiliated dispensaries. This is a relatively new service opportunity and requires particular flexibility on the part of our volunteers.

Lima, Peru: Global Volunteers partners with the *Puericultorio Perez Aranibar* (PPA), a children's home that houses and cares for over 500 children. The PPA provides primary health care services for the children through an on site facility. Volunteers are requested in particular for the PPA's "Early Stimulation Program" to provide one-on-one assistance to special needs children, ages infant to 2. We also provide volunteers for their occupational therapy program designed for children ages 3-5. It is important to note that the resident therapists who manage these projects are absent on holidays. In their absence, all volunteers assist with routine care and free play with the children.

Barlad, Romania: Volunteers care for abandoned and/or disabled infants and toddlers at the *Tutova Clinic*. Many babies are brought to this residential hospital shortly after birth, severely underweight or faced with other health challenges. The babies often stay at the clinic for about a year, or until they can be placed in foster care or be reunited with their families. Volunteers with any skill set can provide care and attention to these children. Opportunities for medical students to assist hospital staff can not be guaranteed.

Pommern, Tanzania: Medical services in this remote rural setting are provided by our partner, the *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania* (ELTC). Patients may walk for hours – or more than a day from their farm to seek health care at the ELTC health facility. Given the lack of access to health care in this remote area, the staff of this facility literally work night and day to handle a full range of health needs. Nurses and dentists have been particularly. Public health educators have helped provide education regarding HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, water and environmental health hazards, first aid and CPR training. One service program each summer is dedicated to training rural medical aids from the book, *Where There is No Doctor*.

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE NEEDS - A CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

For the communities in which we serve, there is continual change and assessment of the local institutions' ability to use medical volunteer service. While it may not be necessary, we ask all of our healthcare volunteers to be flexible and prepared to pitch in on a labor project or teaching conversational English at any time. Please consult with a Volunteer Coordinator before signing up for a healthcare service program.

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS – PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT - CREATING A HUMAN CONNECTION

Global Volunteers is a private nonprofit, nonsectarian organization offering short-term volunteer programs in nearly twenty countries around the world. Each year over 100 teams are coordinated for one- to three-week service programs in China, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana,

Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Tanzania, the USA and Vietnam. We send volunteers only where we have been invited by a local host organization, and we work under the direction of local people.

Volunteers pay for their own airfare and a service program fee ranging from \$995-\$3000. Both are tax-deductible to U.S. citizens. The fee covers volunteers' in-country meals, lodging, and transportation, an experienced team leader, work project materials, and administrative expenses.

Please call (800)487-1074 to speak with a Volunteer Coordinator, or email info@globalvolunteers.org, to receive more information.