YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Paraguay

# Community Service Program

## Community Service Program

*Youth for Understanding Paraguay is in cooperation with eight different foundations where we offer our Community Service Program. In this document these foundations will be brought up and described more in detail. If you have any further questions, don´t hesitate to reach out to us.*

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# Community Service Program

**The Community Service Program offers young adults aged 18 to 26 the possibility of discovering their potential and developing their skills by providing community development assistance in Paraguay.**

*The Community Service Program is a wonderful, comprehensive, and collaborative program. It gives young people the opportunity to explore their potential and deepen their skills as global citizens. In addition, it represents an opportunity for learning and personal growth so enriching and at the same time young people come to feel a different reality and contribute to the development of civil society projects, generating a valuable impact on people and communities.*

*At YFU Paraguay we have several years of experience in the development of this wonderful program and we have established partnerships with very interesting projects that young people can choose from.*

# Community Service Program

## The Program Includes:

### Host Family Placement

**Volunteers will live with host families for the duration of the program. This will allow a better immersion in the Paraguayan culture, traditions, folklore, language and food, among other important topics such as family values that are present in Paraguayan homes and where volunteers will have a role as a member of the family, sharing this great intercultural experience that will be added to their lives.**

### NGO Placement

*Projects could be in the areas of social work, school support, environmental, childhood and adolescence, among others. In the assigned local organization, participants will be supervised by a person responsible for the follow-up of the project in which the volunteer will work. Volunteers are introduced to the daily activities and expectations of the local organization.*

### Support

*YFU Paraguay staff and volunteers will support volunteers throughout the program.*

### Orientations

**Arrival, mid-year and end-of-year. The orientation upon arrival provides students with information about the program, the country's laws and regulations, Paraguayan culture, the communication process, emergency procedures, and other important topics.**

### Spanish Classes

**During the first two weeks, volunteers will have intensive Spanish classes. These classes are prepared with effective techniques for a quick introduction to the Spanish language and everyday communication. The classes will not only include theoretical classes, but also methodologies that include actual practice in walking around the city, riding the bus, handling money, and other aspects that will be part of the volunteer's daily life.**

# Fundación Casa Cuna

**The Fundación Casa Cuna "Dr. Carlos Santiviago" is a comprehensive center that currently serves 300 children between the ages of 1 and 5 from socio-economically disadvantaged families.**

*The children who attend the Casa Cuna Foundation, are from low-income families and most of them are living in situations of risk, insecurity and many even on the street. For this reason the Foundation becomes a safe space where they can receive not only food and affection they need to grow up safe but also a space to relax in a comfortable environment and equipped to meet their needs.*

**Iris 2017-2018**

*"Working at Casa Cuna is definitely one of the best experiences of my life. Being a volunteer there is so much more than just playing with the kids, it´s a full time job that leaves me tired, but with a big smile on my face every time I get off. Not only are the kids fun to be around, the whole work atmosphere is very family like which makes every day a fun day. I am super happy and excited for many more days at Casa Cuna."*

## Mission:

**We are a foundation that seeks to generate the possibility of an integrated development in the first years of life to children from socioeconomically vulnerable families. By taking care of the basic, social, cognitive and affective needs, building together day by day from the respect for the identity and history of each child, seeking the promotion in the fulfillment of their rights.**

https://casacuna.org.py/

# Fundación Asoleu

**The Asoleu Foundation has been working against childhood cancer and leukemia in Paraguay for 29 years, with it's goal to guarantee an integral treatment for children and adolescents between 0 and 18 years.**

*The project provides help and attention to more than 160 children and adolescents suffering from cancer or leukemia in 16 of the 17 states of Paraguay. Asoleu counts with oncological medicines, medical studies, radiotherapy treatments etc. In addition to that, Asoleu has a shelter for the patients located in the non-capital areas of the country, providing them with a comfortable space, nutrition, psychological support and pedagogic services for both, patients and their families.*

## Mission:

**Help, through supportive support, each child and adolescents under 18 years of age with a diagnosis of cancer and leukemia who turn to the Foundation, to receive adequate treatment for their recovery.**

## The Work Tasks:

**As a volunteer in Asoleu you will have the opportunity to work in the shelter Fausta Masolo, with the patients or at the office supporting administrative and marketing tasks. In the shelter the help of a volunteer is more than welcome. The children are waiting to play, to complete school homework and participate in any activities that the volunteer is willing to share. In the end they are children that want to have fun, they are able to do everything, but in controlled form, without tiering too much out. In the Asoleu office the tasks are more focused in áreas such as Marketing and fundraising, administrative tasks and support in the foundation activities.**

*https://www.asoleu.org.py/*

**Theba 2023:**

*"I am very happy to work with the children, they fill me with love. But also with sadness, depending on the health of the children. There are days with a lot of energy and joy, but there are also days that are quieter. Working as a volunteer in Asoleu fills me with a feeling that I cannot find anywhere else".*

# Fundación Moises Bertoni

**The Moisés Bertoni Foundation (FMB) is a private, non-profit association dedicated to the concept of sustainable development, understood as the process of creating environmental, social and economic value.**

*We at the Moises Bertoni Foundation are committed to the concept of Sustainable Development, which we understand to be the process of creating environmental, social and economic values. We are dedicated to a model of development that is balanced, equitable, and inclusive. At the same time, we understand that the issue is complex as it integrates multiple elements and dimensions.*

*Accordingly, our approach strives at all times to be comprehensive and centered on the people who inhabit the territory in which we work. We see ourselves as articulators of diverse initiatives with the public and private sectors and with civil society, always seeking innovative solutions and approaches to the complex socio-environmental problems that we face as a society.*

https://mbertoni.org.py/

## Mission:

**The Moisés Bertoni Foundation works in an innovative way for sustainable development through conservation, social responsibility and active participation of the population.**

**Andrea 2021-2022:**

*"I worked in the nature reserve Mbaracayu in Paraguay during 2021 and I had enjoyed it. I got used to living and working in the rainforest under extreme conditions. I've become friends with indigenous communities and my welcoming, funny and intelligent co-workers that have been inspiring me to study guarani and the indigenous language aché. I did learn some things about myself. Since I am in the forest with no access to any supermarkets I realised that I was graving for all the different kinds of food that cities have to offer. Life in the city is quite luxurious. The longer I stayed here the less I felt this graving. I think I have overcome my addiction to luxury at least a bit".*

# Fundación Guyra Paraguay

**GUYRA PARAGUAY is a non-profit civil society organization that works to defend and protect the biodiversity of our country and to organize the population to ensure the necessary habitat for future generations to know representative samples of Paraguay's natural wealth.**

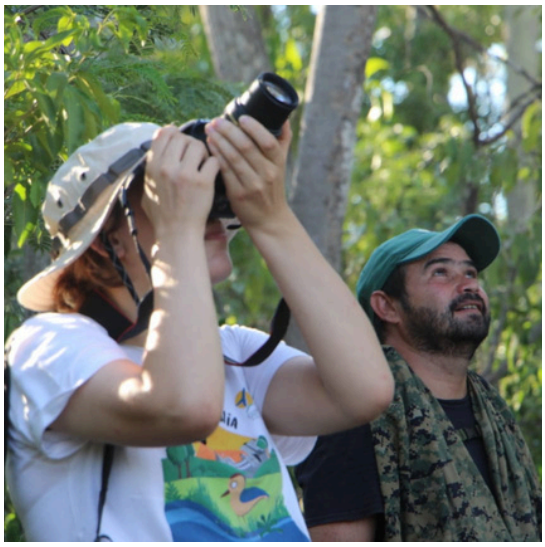
*The participation of the communities and inhabitants of the countryside of Paraguay, in our study and conservation work is one of the most valuable tools we have to achieve the objectives of this association.*

## The Work Tasks:

**The ultimate goal is the conservation of birds and their environment. And there are two audiences we want to reach. One is the scientific public, through the publication of articles in research journals, which reflects that the tasks carried out by Guyra Paraguay have scientific rigor and therefore the results we show are valid for good support of our conservation activities.**

**Secondly, the most important audience is the general public. People outside the scientific community. Guyra Paraguay's actions definitely have an impact on society through the publication of several popular science books, which are very well received. In addition, it is important to note that Guyra Paraguay carries out birdwatching trips (and other elements of nature) with people who love and are fascinated by wildlife.**

https://guyra.org.py/



## Mission:

**To conserve and promote the sustainable use of biological diversity, with emphasis on birds, with the active and responsible participation of society.**

**Bianca 2021-2022:**

*"I worked in the nature reserve "Los Tres Gigantes" which is situated in the north of Paraguay. The scenery there is beautiful, there are many animals and there is always something new to learn and discover. In day to day life I forget what it is I'm actually doing and then when I remember and make myself aware, me being in a foreign country 10000km away from home and working as a ranger in a nature reserve astonishes me".*

# Banco de Alimentos Paraguay

**We are a Food Bank, a non-profit organization. Food Banks are organizations that work to alleviate the hunger suffered by thousands of people in the world, with the main objective of avoiding waste and caring for the environment.**

*In Paraguay, the Food Bank was created in March 1996 as a result of a meeting with the leaders of the CDO, and since then it has worked tirelessly to be a bridge between the availability of food and those who need it most.*
*The group of beneficiary organizations are nursing homes, orphanage, soup kitchens, and institutions that support families in need in the area of Asuncion and central department.*

## Project "Save more, feed better".

**The project was created with the objective of rescuing FRUIT AND VEGETABLES in the Asunción food market, with an initial goal of 1,000 kg/month and the plan to increase operational capacity to improve the nutritional quality of the food we deliver in the Greater Asunción area to beneficiary entities, establishing alliances with sectors related to nutrition and health to complement with training and nutritional education to obtain correct and maximum use in human consumption of the rescued food.**

https://bancodealimentos.org.py/

### Clarissa 2022 -2023:

*"Panza llena, corazón contento" (engl.: full stomach, happy heart). That's the slogan on the small transporter at my workplace. And what do we fill the bellies with? With saved food!*
*I'm very content with my Project, I feel like I'm part of the team. I like the fact that I'm acquiring useful skills too, like learning to use Excel, and a lot of knowledge about the agroindustrial system, food waste and environmentalism in Paraguay"*

# Habitat Paraguay

**Habitat for the Humanity is an international non-profit organization that has 25 years of experience and are working on three projects that meet the needs of Paraguayan families: Together for your home, for the future of our children and serving the collaborators.**

*Habitat is a project that seeks to improve the housing conditions of families so that all members can live in a harmonious, healthy and safe place.*
*Habitat is a project that seeks to improve the housing conditions of families so that all members can live in a harmonious, healthy and safe place.*
*Their vision is a world, where everyone has a suitable place to live.*

## The Work Tasks

**Habitat for Humanity Paraguay offers the opportunity to participate in a construction in which volunteers have the opportunity to support by carrying out various tasks during the constructive process of housing solutions in collaboration with families and at the same time living an experience of solidarity.**
**The construction can be developed in a day of work or in several days depending on the availability of the group supporting the different stages of construction.**

https://www.habitat.org.py/

**Anneke 2022- 2023:**

*"I was warmly welcomed from the beginning and quickly became part of the Habitat Paraguay family. I had to get used to working methods and strategies that were a bit different from those in Germany, but the communication with my colleagues helped me a lot.. At the beginning it was very strange for me and it took me a long time to get used to the new language, the food and the way of life of the Paraguayans. But with time, everything becomes easier, you develop routines and gradually build your social environment".*

# Fundación CONNIN Paraguay

**We are dedicated to the prevention and recovery of malnourished children from 0 to 5 years of age who are at high social or nutritional risk, and to the support of their families.**

*All the programs developed in a CONIN center are aimed at accompanying the family group through support and education. Therefore, the goal is to strengthen the protective factors and to seek strategies to minimize or eliminate the risk factors identified in the child's family group.*

*Every month, apply for the program around 120 infants and children. Every day of the week attend to the center a certain amount of mothers and their children, usually during the morning they go under medical evaluation and checks with the different specialists such as nutritionists, cocking, hygiene, health, family planning, breastfeeding, etc,*

## Mision

**To work for a Paraguay without malnutrition, for the promotion of a just society and for the development of human capital.**

## The Work Tasks:

**The main field of work and the most important target in this project is the mother and the small children from 0 to 5 years old.**

**The volunteer will support in the administration area with the process, activities, daily information management. Support in the classroom with the stimulation of babies and children and support with the activities for the mothers in different areas and workshops.**

https://www.conin.org.py/

# Fundación
# Las tias Paraguay

**It is a children's foundation and a temporary home for vulnerable children and adolescents.**

*The Las Tías Foundation is a home for vulnerable children and adolescents aged 0 to 18, operating under court order. During their stay, residents have access to education, healthcare and recreational activities, as well as courses and workshops to support their personal and professional development.*

*The Foundation was born out of the constant social challenges that families face. Our mission is to provide every child with a better quality of life.*

## Mision

**Our mission is to provide our children with love, protection, and comprehensive care according to their needs. We provide them with shelter, clothing, food, education, and healthcare.**

## The Work Tasks:

**Volunteers and mentors are expected to act as caregivers and educators for the children, accompanying them at all times during their training and education.**

**Some of their tasks will include helping to plan and carry out fun, educational, and recreational activities for the children. They will also assist in planning and carrying out special events and projects, such as festivals, workshops, and awareness campaigns. Additionally, they will help spread awareness of the foundation's mission and goals through social media, events, and other communication channels.**

# Alter Vida

**A civil organization committed to sustainable development that is recognized for the quality of its management.**

*Founded in 1985, ALTER VIDA is a nonprofit civil society organization (CSO) of public interest.*
*Its primary activity is managing and implementing socio-environmental projects related to development, research, innovation, and ecosystem conservation.*

## Mision

**Develop and promote a rights-based approach to socio-environmental management systems for a sustainable Paraguay.**

## The Work Tasks:

**The organization carries out training activities and community organizational strengthening with an inclusive and intercultural approach. It coordinates with other institutions and sectors on issues related to production, climate change, market access, and the sustainable management of natural resources.**

**Alter Vida's Biodiversity Program carries out socio-environmental projects with indigenous and other vulnerable communities to improve their quality of life and protect nature.**
**Alter Vida is based in Asunción, Paraguay. The Biodiversity Program primarily conducts its activities in the Paraguayan Chaco, though depending on its commitments, it may also work in other areas of the country.**

https://www.altervida.org.py/v6/

## YFU Paraguay

# Colored Glasses

**YFU Paraguay is a non-profit educational organization with no political, religious or racial affiliation that seeks to promote peace among the peoples of the world and intercultural understanding through cultural programs.**

*Colored Glasses is a series of intercultural workshops that provide informal intercultural learning experiences. The project began in 1996 as an initiative of former Youth For Understanding (YFU) exchange students. Through these intercultural workshops, participants can gain knowledge about global and local issues and problems, develop empathy, critical thinking, tolerance, and skills needed for the 21st century.*

## Project Goals

**Colored Glasses contributes to increasing the number of young people who develop intercultural competencies. In this way, they are prepared to engage in intercultural dialogues and non-discriminatory practices.**

**Colored Glasses is a project that seeks to promote intercultural understanding and raise awareness of relevant social issues.**

**The workshops are educational programs. They are designed for students between the ages of 15 and 18, as well as teachers and educators.**

## YFU Paraguay Vision

**We are a volunteer-based cultural exchange organization that promotes tolerance, respect, inclusion, empathy, understanding and peace, forming global citizens.**

**In YFU Paraguay, the Colored Glasses Project is just beginning, and the role of the volunteer is crucial in developing and implementing the workshops in the schools of Asuncion and Gran Asuncion.**

https://yfu.org.py/site/

**Mathilda 2022- 2023:**

*"The people in Paraguay showed me a way to help strangers that I didn't know in Germany. The kindness you receive on the street or in a café is unbelievable. In my project I was also received with a lot of love and patience. They always helped me and supported me when I had a question or a problem. I felt very comfortable in the work environment and I can always rely on my colleagues".*

# Our Capeless Heroes

2016

Martin

Audrey

2017

Mary & Iris

2017

Freja

2018

Luca, Michael & Rhianon

2019

Volunteers Weltwaerts

# Our Capeless Heroes

2021

Volunteers Weltwaerts

2022

Volunteers Weltwaerts

2023

Volunteers Weltwaerts

2024

Volunteers Weltwaerts

2025

Volunteers Weltwaerts

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