

PORTUGUESE CLASSES + VOLUNTEER WORK PROGRAM IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL



ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN SAO PAULO

Volunteering is facing adversities, considering obstacles as proofs of your capability to deal with real problems.

It is taking as yours the commitment the organization has for the ones it assists, feeling responsible for its victories and defeats. Volunteering is giving your time and expecting certain returns.

The basic returns are thanks, recognition of what you have achieved, work you enjoy and a sociable atmosphere.

Volunteering in Brazil, as in any part of the world, is not an easy issue at all and, equally, is not volunteering in Sao Paulo, but you may have a rewarding return for the job you do here.

Thinking about that and also thinking about the improvement our civil society would acquire with a foreign perspective of the problems it faces, Fast Forward Institute idealized a program of volunteering that has been developed and is getting stronger as years pass by.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM CONSIST OF?

This volunteer program consists of receiving foreign students from any part of the world who are eager to cooperate in one of the NGOs that work with us.

We measure our students not for their previous experience with volunteer projects, but for their will to change things, to involve themselves within the organizations' purposes and values, and to exchange their knowledge with the professionals who are able to better guide them in carrying on their plans and wishes.

We offer an 8-week program of volunteering. This program consists of 4 first weeks of Portuguese lessons, if the student has none or basic Portuguese level.



After those weeks, four more of placement in an organization the student thinks that better fits his/her needs or is suitable for the project he/she wants to develop.

The accommodation must be arranged with the school prior to the student's arrival. Students are lodged in family houses by the time of volunteer work.

The 8-week program may be extended up to 6 months of volunteering depending on the volunteer's aims. It is important for the student to achieve a certain level of Portuguese.

Communication is a strong point and its importance cannot be diminished as well as other points, such as, organizations' timetables, rules, social and behavioral codes.

WHO IS OUR IDEAL VOLUNTEER?

There is no formula for a perfect volunteer, but we could say our ideal volunteer is a creative person, with positive attitude, without prejudice, flexible in accepting suggestions, but assertive when it concerns the results of his/her work.

A person with an overall view of the country's problems and political scenario, attached to his/her beliefs, seriously encouraged and ready to show there are no horizons too far away and boundaries are only in our minds.

KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PROJECTS

TERTIO MILLENNIO develops socio-educational activities through *Programa Multiplica* (Multiplier Program), directed at marginalized communities in large urban centers characterized by inequity, suffering injustice and violence.

This population lives in abandonment, in high-risk situations, lacking education and basic public services, with no way of providing the following generation hope.

Programa Multiplica focuses on social and human development, aiming to improve targeted women and children's quality of life through socio-educational activities.

Their work provides a Pedagogic Orientation Program for day-care children (0-6 years old), a Teacher Competency Course, and for women, courses in Professional Competency accompanied by Income Generation Projects.

GOTAS DE FLOR COM AMOR In 1992, the social program GOTAS DE FLOR COM AMOR started a volunteer program with kids who used to work the traffic lights in Sao Paulo.

They believed these kids, whose lives had no hope and especially no self-esteem, could be rescued from the streets through a progressive educational therapy.

Sensitive to the growing needs of this segment of the population, GOTAS DE FLOR COM AMOR started to act in a more organized and educative way with the families, schools and communities of which these kids were part. In 1993, these activities were institutionalized.

The program became an NGO aiming at educating children, teenagers and their families, people who are usually at-risk.

In 1995, they received permission from the DER (a governmental organization that is responsible for maintaining roads and highways in Brazil) to develop a handicrafts workshop in three weekly sessions always with the help of volunteers.

This program's success was aided by C&A Institute, CREDICARD Institute, VITAE and many other sponsors. In this same year the program can afford its own headquarters; they start run-away prevention.

They have an opening in a non-profit social and human institution. This institution works with children and teenagers from slums (05 - 18 years old). They have a center where these kids stay part-time.

The organization develops activities in non-formal areas such as Art, Culture, Creativity, Human Values, Environment, Traditional and Alternative Health, etc.

OUR MESSAGE

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A person with an overall view of the country's problems and political scenario. Someone attached to his/her beliefs, seriously encouraged and ready to show there are no horizons too far away and boundaries are only in our minds.



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