



Project Amigo

As recognized by Rotary International, education and literacy are powerful keys to enabling a brighter future for the world's children, benefitting as well the nations they live in. For more than two decades Project Amigo has helped rural children in Mexico continue their formal schooling up to and including at the college level.

In existence since 1984, and formally as a U.S. 501-c-3 non-profit charity since 1996 (Canadian charitable status pending), Project Amigo provides educational scholarships, material support, enrichment activities and medical and dental services to disadvantaged children and youth throughout Colima state.

Volunteer Work Weeks based at our headquarters in Colima, Mexico allow volunteers from developed countries to engage in humanitarian service and become both friends and sponsors of Mexican children and youth seeking the many advantages of education.



Donations

The requested donation of \$1,200 per person includes double-occupancy accommodations (for a private room, please add \$125), all meals and non-alcoholic beverages, laundry service, transportation during the Work Week, entertainment, cultural activities, and a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. The donation does not include transportation to Mexico, transportation for arrivals or departures other than on the first and last days of the Work Week, liquor or long-distance phone calls.

Transportation

You, or your group, will make your own travel arrangements to and from Guadalajara or Manzanillo. We advise you to make airline reservations early as there is limited air service at convenient hours. Project Amigo will pick you up at the airport on the afternoon of the first day of the Work Week and deliver you back the afternoon of the last day. If your travel plans are different from this schedule, please contact us and we can help you make other arrangements.

Accommodations

All Work Week volunteers stay at the Project Amigo headquarters located in Cofradía de Suchitlán, a small pueblo about 12 miles north of the city of Colima. This gives our volunteers the added treat of experiencing authentic Mexican village life during their stay.

Reservations

A deposit of one-half of the requested donation is required to reserve your place.

Contact Cindy Newell with questions:

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Humanitarian Service Work Weeks *2013 - 2014*



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Amigo**
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What Are Volunteer Service Work Weeks?

Humanitarian Service

Each day, volunteers engage in a variety of projects designed to combine humanitarian service, educational experience, and fun. While the general “theme” of each Work Week is unique, the common elements include immersion in rural Mexican culture, and significant interaction with Project Amigo’s sponsored children (K—6) and scholarship students (7th—college), whether in recreational, educational, or focused service activities.

Cultural Immersion

While a large portion of our humanitarian service focus is on education (the “Project” part), the other portion is on building friendships to last a lifetime (the “amigo” part)! We will work, but there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy Mexican cuisine, culture and regional history while you are here. Our weeks typically include a bit of instruction in conversational Spanish, a Mexican cooking class, perhaps some *baile* (dance), and a visit to indigenous ruins or an ecological sanctuary on the Pacific coast. The week ends with an opportunity to shop for local handicrafts and souvenirs.



Work Week Schedule for 2013 - 2014

Christmas Fiesta

December 7 - 15, 2013 December 6 - 14, 2014

Every year Project Amigo and the Colima Rotary Club host a Christmas party for more than 250 disadvantaged children. During the week before the party, volunteers sort, wrap, and label gifts of new clothing, shoes, and toys, then distribute them to the children. The climax of the week is the *Fiesta* itself, during which volunteers serve food, play with the children, and bring Christmas joy to hundreds of little ones. The week will also give visitors the opportunity to experience the Mexican Festival of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Literacy and Environment

March 9 - 17, 2013 March 15 - 22, 2014
 Nov. 9 - 17, 2013 Nov. 8 - 15, 2014

These twice-yearly work weeks offer visitors a unique and fulfilling combination of service and ecological discovery. You will assist in various regional literacy projects with disadvantaged children and youth, and enjoy a variety of ecological immersions with local experts in birding, botany, agriculture and volcanology, in a variety of settings from the Pacific Coast to our own active, backyard volcano. (Specifics vary seasonally; please inquire.)

Preventive Dental Health

February 1- 8, 2014

Poor dental health is one of the biggest challenges facing disadvantaged children worldwide, putting them at risk for other health issues, both physical and emotional. Under the guidance of dental health professionals, we will visit hundreds of students at rural schools, applying fluoride, teaching proper dental hygiene, distributing tooth brushes, and screening them for follow-up dental care. During our visits we will also distribute books to each of the children; often the first book they have ever owned.

English as Second Language

January 5 - 18, 2014 (two weeks: \$1400)

One of the most fulfilling experiences you can have with Project Amigo is working one-on-one with our amazing scholarship students. And one of the most valuable skills our students wish to obtain is the ability to converse in English. That’s where you come in!



Under the direction of a certified TESOL Instructor (*Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*), you will spend a portion of your day as Tutor to one of our advanced-standing (late high-school/college) scholarship students, and the remainder in reciprocal (English-Spanish) cultural immersion, service, and free-time activities with your tutors and peers.

