



Seguimos
Construyendo
Esperanza


Fundación
Proyecto Unión
Un lugar donde la vida recobra la esperanza



Who are we?

Since our founding in 1999, we have been working as a non-profit organization for two of the most disadvantaged and special populations in Colombia: children and adolescents with complicated pathologies, and homeless elderly people. Our support services range from primary care to professional nursing and medical care to individual therapy and inclusion programs. Our goal: to give people hope for a better life!



Volunteers in action

Change the world

We believe that every human being carries the need to help other people within themselves. We want to strengthen this need with the volunteer program and build a better world together with the volunteers.





„Viajeros de Esperanza" (Hope Travelers) is a program for international volunteers in Colombia, initiated and directed by Fundación Proyecto Unión. The program sensitizes volunteers to the difficult reality of life of children and adolescents with complicated pathologies and homeless people in the country, while offering them the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives and futures of these people.

About us

Fundación Proyecto Unión is an organization that has been hosting volunteers from all over the world for more than 20 years, placed through international volunteer agencies or private contacts. The experiences of the last two decades have been consistently very positive. Not only have the volunteers been able to put their skills to good use and develop their personalities, but we have also learned a great deal from them and strengthened our "Volunteers in Action We Are Changing the World" program. Exchanges with international volunteers have raised the Foundation's profile abroad, and strong partnerships have been forged with non-profit organizations in Europe and the United States. One example is the close collaboration with the Berlin-based Friends of Angels of Germany. This was founded by a group of former volunteers from Germany who have been supporting our projects in Colombia since its establishment in 2021. The success of the volunteer work so far and the newly created accommodation for international volunteers in our "Casa de los Angeles", has encouraged us to create the program "Viajeros de Esperanza".



Impact

.Our volunteer program offers the opportunity to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection of life and the planet.

With your time, knowledge, skills and most importantly with your desire to help, together we can **change the lives of hundreds of children with disabilities, complex illnesses and homeless adults**. You'll also help restore and protect biodiversity and maintain various conservation districts where the planet's biodiversity is preserved.



500
Families

with their sick children received help from our foundation



1.300
Children

with complex illnesses without relatives taking care of them received comprehensive care and attention.



200
Homeless
people

eat breakfast and lunch daily in our institution „Comedor María es mi Madre”



70
Hectar

protected nature area and the preservation of two endangered species..

What do we offer?



acomodation



catering



spanish lessons



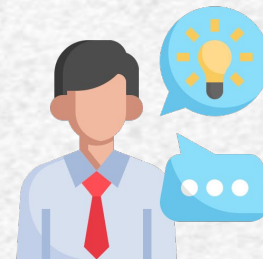
cultural exchange



Be part of sustainable development projects



visit to conservation programs for spectacled bears in Guasca Cundinamarca and for condors of the andes in Santander.



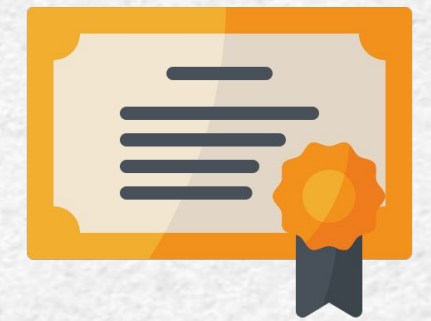
training in the selected field of the vluntaryservice



cultural and ecological tourism offers in Bogota, la Sabana y el Páramo del Almorzadero.



24/7 assistance



certificate for your CV

Be part, learn, experience, enjoy and show the best of you!

These are our projects

The Foundation has 5 programs and locations where volunteers can perform the tasks that match their interests

01



02



03



04.



05.





01

Casa de los Ángeles

address: Km 34. Via Briceña Tocancipá



What do we do?

- Families who travel from remote locations in Colombia to Bogotá to receive medical treatment for their sick children, and do not have accommodation or the means to stay in the capital, receive housing, meals and recreational activities from us.

What does a volunteer do?

- You will participate in activities such as playing games, listening to music, or storytelling, cinema as well as sports activities such as dancing or a tour in the Sabana Ecopark, walking or biking, with the children.



- Work with the mothers of the children who live in our house. Through trainings that can be helpful for their personal and professional development, they are able to lead activities such as: Sewing workshops, training in systems management, basics of office work, crafts, sports activities, cooking.
- Conduct workshops in Spanish, English and Math for the children.
- Assist with household tasks such as: Gardening, kitchen duty, taking care of the dogs, etc.





01

Programa Dejando Huellas

Address: Km 34. Via Briceño -
Tocancipá



What do we do?

- This program focuses on working with young children, parents, and caregivers who support many families to prevent children from being neglected.

What can a volunteer do?

- handicraft business
- Organise free time activities
- Assist with homework or school tasks



02

Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia

Adresse: Cra. 5 # 67-74, Bogotá



What do we do?

- About 50 boys and girls with difficult-to-treat illnesses live permanently in Santa Rita de Cascia. For various reasons, their families are unable to care for them according to their needs.
- Our team of doctors, nurses and pedagogues takes care of the children's well-being 24/7 and supports them in their individual development.

This is what you should bring as a volunteer:

- Working as a volunteer at Hogar Santa Rita is challenging! You should be motivated to work with children with complex illnesses and disabilities and have a willingness to learn and tolerance.
- Teamwork and mutual respect are a must!
- Creative minds are also welcome, as we are always happy to hear new ideas for activities for the children.

- Encouraging babies' motor skills and sensory awareness with sounds, instruments, and textures. Homework help for older children within the Hospital Classroom Program.
- Logistical activities of the house, such as the organization of the warehouses, the pantries and the classification of the various donations, assistance in the laundry.
- Participation in the educational program that carries out daily developmental activities of the four educational components through exploration of the environment, play, reading and art.
- Assisting with breakfast, lunch and dinner; feeding the babies and toddlers and learn about their individual dietary requirements.
- Read aloud stories, play and leisure activities through and support the development of tasks with the children that are part of the Ser y Cuidado Día programs.

Volunteers have the possibility to be trained in:

1. Wheelchair management
2. How to give the bottle to babies?
3. Colombian standards for the care of children of ICBF.





03

Comedor María es mi Madre

Address: Cra. 4 # 6B - 44, Bogotá



What do we do?

- We offer breakfast and lunch for approx. 120 elderly homeless people everyday.

This you should bring as a volunteer:

- It is necessary that you feel able to interact with elderly people living on the street.
- You are aware that it is important to understand the social dynamics these people go through.

- Serve the meals, friendly and attentive service of the senior citizens
- Smaller tasks in the kitchen during the preparation of the meals
- Organization and cleaning of the dining room
- Organization of purchases and the food pantry
- Organizing donated medications and assisting with distribution
- Participation in the regular health days on site, where the seniors can get a medical check-up (basic check-up)



Breakfast serving is from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and lunch serving is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



04

Fundación Dharma

Address: Cra. 13 # 2-82, Bogotá



What do we do?

- We offer help to low-income children and adolescents suffering from cancer or other chronic and incurable diseases, who come from different parts of the country, by providing them, together with their mothers, with accommodation for the entire duration of treatment

As a volunteer, you have to take into account:

- Working as a volunteer at Fundación Dharma is very demanding and can be emotionally challenging. Sensitivity and empathy are needed here, because the residents have high physical and psychological stressors that the volunteers will be confronted with.

- Support for the education of children and adolescents in the subjects of languages (Spanish and English), mathematics, among others, as part of the Hospital Classrooms program.
- Supporting families with awareness activities, workshops for health promotion and healthy habits
- Organization of sports activities that promote the social integration of boys and girls
- Participation and organization of fun activities and/or trips to different places in the area
- Development of cooking, handicraft, knitting and sewing workshops





05

Fundación Parque Jaime Duque

Address: Km 34 Autopista Norte - Tocancipá, Cundinamarca



What do we do?

- Fundación Parque Jaime Duque is committed to strengthening families and family cohesion, protecting nature, promoting culture and the lives of the most vulnerable populations, with the sole purpose of serving the community and promoting the well-being of present and future generations..

What can you do as a volunteer?

- Contribute to the protection of the environment by carrying out field work in native forests and organic orchards, accompanied by experts on the subject, to develop programs to protect fauna, flora and endangered species such as the Andean condor and the spectacled bear in nature reserves in the departments of Cundinamarca and Santander.



1) Volunteering service in ECOPARQUE SABANA

Location: Fundación Parque Jaime Duque

Program “Vida”:

The volunteer will receive training on germination and development of native plant propagation, contributing to the preservation of biodiversity.



Program “Cuidando el Bosque Ecoparque Sabana”:

This program includes training on forestry and the development of programs for the conservation of native forest plants such as the campaign "Árboles para mi país". This program contributes to the development of sustainable landscapes, with the help of activities such as: Restoration, maintenance of the reserve, planting trees to create a corridor that connects the Páramo de Guerrero and the Chingaza Massif.



Program: “Acciones por nuestro planeta”:

Learn more about the permaculture program that aims to care for people, the earth, healthy eating and sustainability, and help curb the climate crisis and food waste.

- Get actively involved in planting, tending and harvesting flavourful vegetables in organic gardens.
- Learn and participate in the process from harvesting to food preparation and connect issues of health and nutrition to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

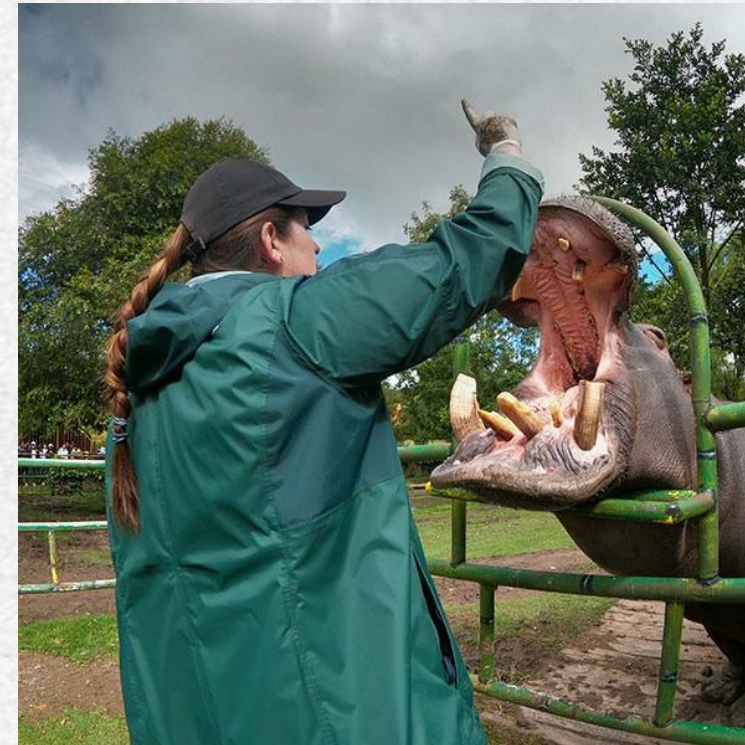


3) Volunteering service in BIOPARQUE WAKATÁ

Location: Parque Jaime Duque Tocancipá

Program: “Conservación de la biodiversidad”

- Visit the Biodiversity Conservation Program, which includes 650 animals and 110 species between domestic and wild, found in the Bioparque Wakatá Nature Reserve, the vast majority of which have been rescued from illegal trade.
- Participate in the animal conservation program through which you will strengthen your knowledge of fauna, nutrition and health. Activities are led by trained animal caretakers and contribute to the mental and physical health of the animals..
- Participate in the development of education and habitat care programs aimed at schools and communities and become a promoter of animal welfare and a multiplier of environmental awareness.



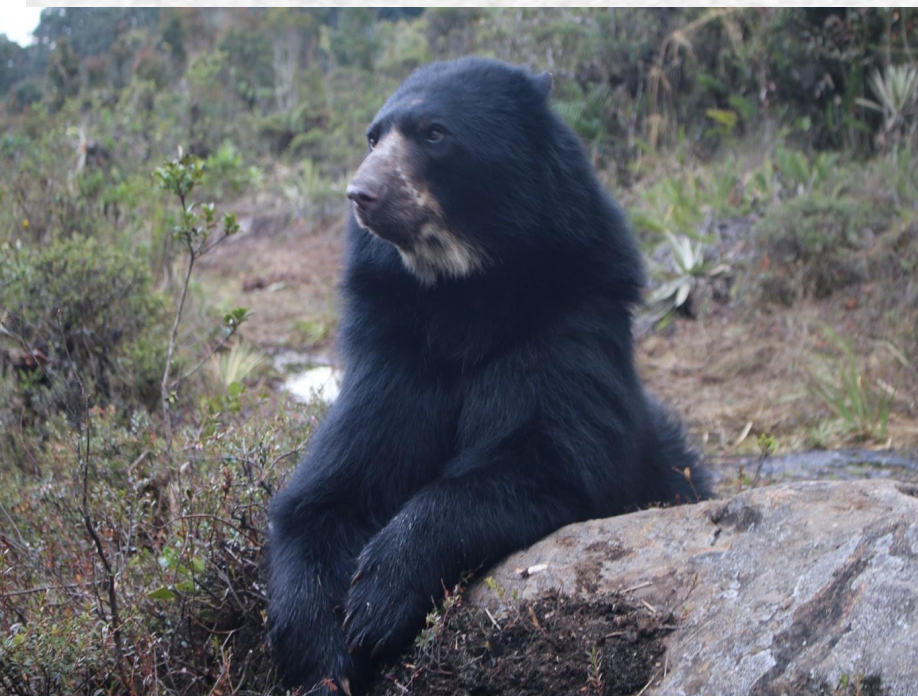
2) Volunteering service in EL SANTUARIO DEL OSO DE ANTEOJOS (SOA):



Location: Guasca Cundinamarca

Program: “Conservación del Oso Andino”

1. **One-day-tour:** Visit the 2 km ecological walk of the Bear Sanctuary through the Andean Forest Trail. Includes lunch and roundtrip transportation.
2. **Over-night-stay (1 night):** Trip to the Bear Sanctuary and Chingaza National Park, walk through the sanctuary, bird watching, contact with wild fauna and flora. Accommodation in a cabin in the middle of the forest.
3. **Volunteering (minimum stay: 2 weeks):** training on bear, habitat and feeding. Interaction with local farming communities.



4) Volunteering in the natural reserve “LA PIEDRA DEL CÓNDOR”

Location: Páramo del Almorzadero Departamento de Santander

Program: “ Conservación del Cóndor de los Andes”

- Learn about the daily work of the families of the ACAMCO Association (Asociación Campesina Coexistiendo con el Cóndor) and support them through the development of sustainable production strategies and organic self-consumption plantations that contribute to the conservation program of the Andean condor. (Symbol of sovereignty and national bird of Colombia).
- Learn about a local family's sustainability concept, which is a replicable model for local communities through restoration and maintenance processes (sheep farm, sheep hurdles, trout farming, organic orchards).
- Participate in explorations on the páramo with a local guide to see condors and wildlife, learn about the soil restoration process, sow frailejón, and visit natural lagoons.
- Explore the Ortices Lagoon in San Andrés - a unique freshwater basin. This visit includes an ecological walk to see canyons and giant ceiba trees. In addition, you will have the opportunity to see the famous cane sugar mills and the production of panela.



- Gain insight into the process of wool, making clothes, ruanas and hats from the women's group of the "Tejiendo Sueños" association.
- Participate in the activities of the "Club de Ciencias Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes Coexistiendo con el Cóndor", whose goal is to raise awareness and educate children in the region for environmental protection.
- Experience the culture, gastronomy, crafts and landscapes of this important department of the country, located in the north-eastern Andes of Colombia, with rural and nature tourism in the municipalities of Concepción, El Cerrito and San Andrés, which belong to the province of García Rovira.



Profile of a volunteer





ur volunteers play an important role in the reintegration of vulnerable populations and the regeneration and protection of the environment. For this we need people with:

SOLIDARITY

HELPFULNESS

WILLINGNESS TO INTEGRATE

TRUSTWORTHINESS

ENGAGEMENT

LEADERSHIP

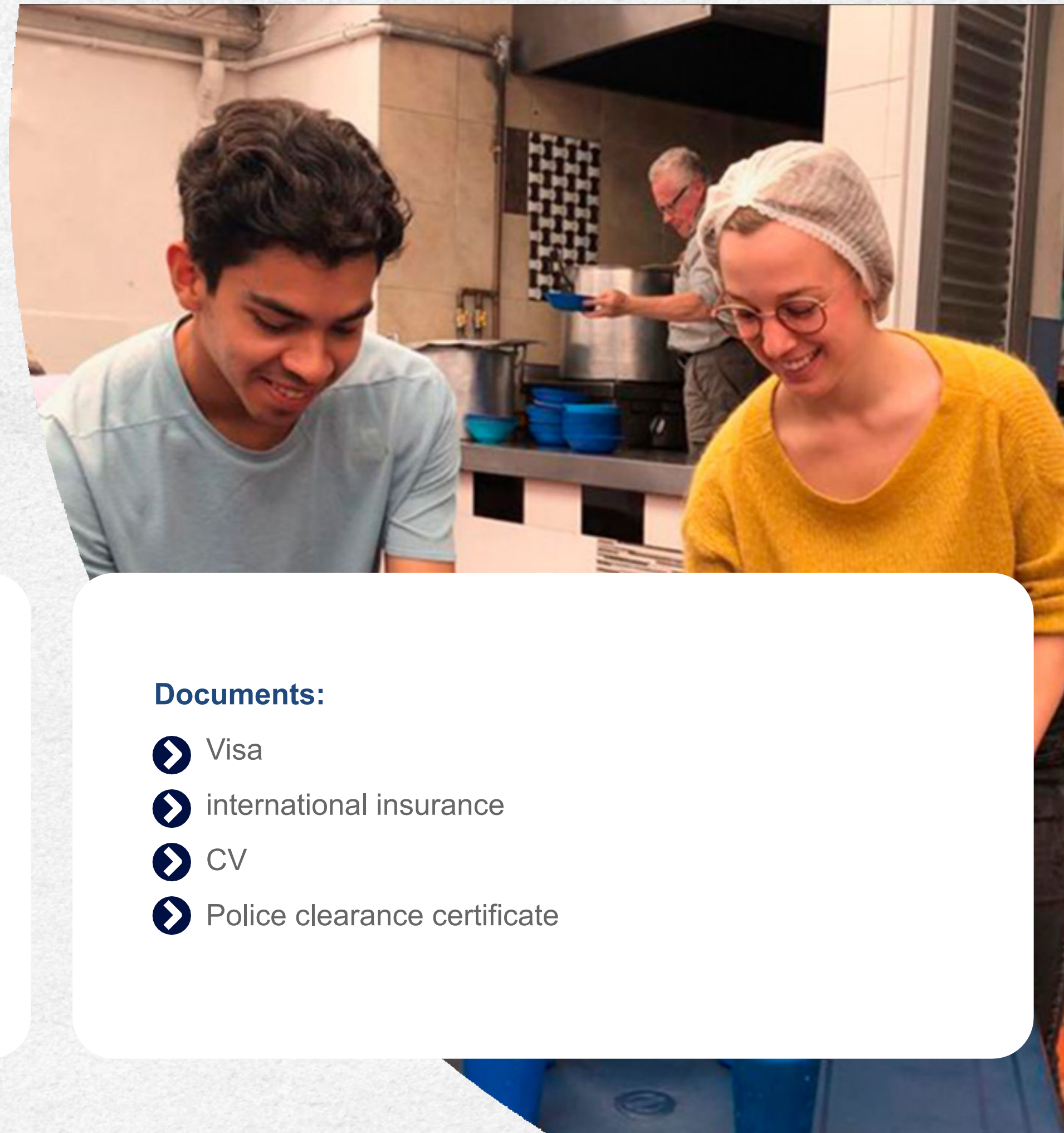
RESPECT

TEAM SPIRIT



Requirements

- ★ **Empathy with the children, interest in inclusion, and respect towards people with disabilities and dealing with the homeless.**
- ★ **Respectful of the environment and biodiversity.**



- Minimum duration of stay is 4 weeks.
- Minimum age 18 years.
- Students, professionals, seniors.
- No criminal record.
- Basic level of Spanish (A2 or higher)

Documents:

- Visa
- international insurance
- CV
- Police clearance certificate

Accommodation, logistics and costs

The main location of the Fundación and accommodation for volunteers is the Centro Vida in the municipality of Tocancipá, which can be reached within 45 minutes by car from Bogotá..



Accommodation and offers

- Casa de los Ángeles has single or shared rooms for up to 2 volunteers
- Three meals and a daily snack are provided (which will be served at location where you are volunteering that day).



Casa de los Ángeles has: Laundry, computer room, kitchen, TV room, music room, playground and kitchen.



Living room



Kitchen



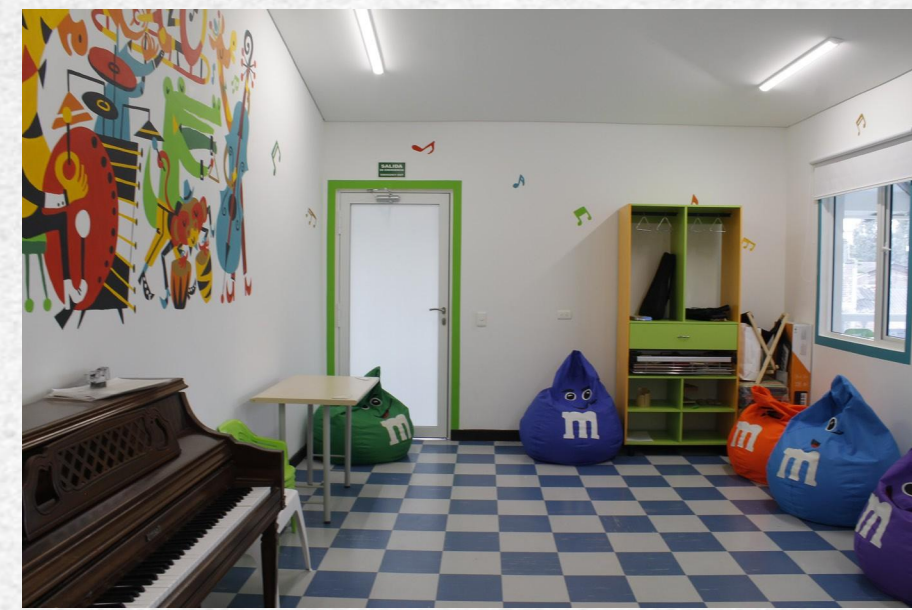
Laundry



Playground



Computer room



Music room

PAYMENT:



Basic costs:

- Transportation from the airport to Centro de Vida (Tocancipá) and from Tocancipá to the airport
- Accommodation
- Internet
- Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks)
- Volunteer outfit (overalls, cap)
- Introduction and visit to each site
- Contribution to the programs of the Fundación

2.470.000 COP
(per month)

TRANSPORT

OPTION 1: Private transportation to various locations (round trip) 140.000 COP per day

OPTION 2: Public transport "Tu Llave" in Bogotá 17.000COP per day

Spanish lessons

- Private Spanish lessons in the location "Centro de Vida" : 50.000 COP per lesson/45 min.
- Spanish lessons at the University Nacional in Bogotá : 720.000 COP (for two month course)

Volunteering for species conservation

PROGRAM PROTECTION OF THE CONDOR OF THE ANDES

- Transportation costs from Tocancipá to Municipio de Concepción Dpto. Santander (round trip)
- Accommodation in Concepción (01 day)
- Hotel costs Cerrito Colonial San José, Villa Concepción (01 night)
- Transportation from Concepción to Reserva and "Finca" (round trip)
- Transportation and visit to the lagoon "Ortices" and visit to the sugar cane mill. (01 day)
- Support of the program for the conservation of the Condor

485.000 COP

PROGRAM PROTECTION OF SPECTACLED BEAR

- Transport Briceño –Guasca
- Guide
- Entrance RNSC El Paramo-Santuario
- Snacks
- Lunch

128.000 COP

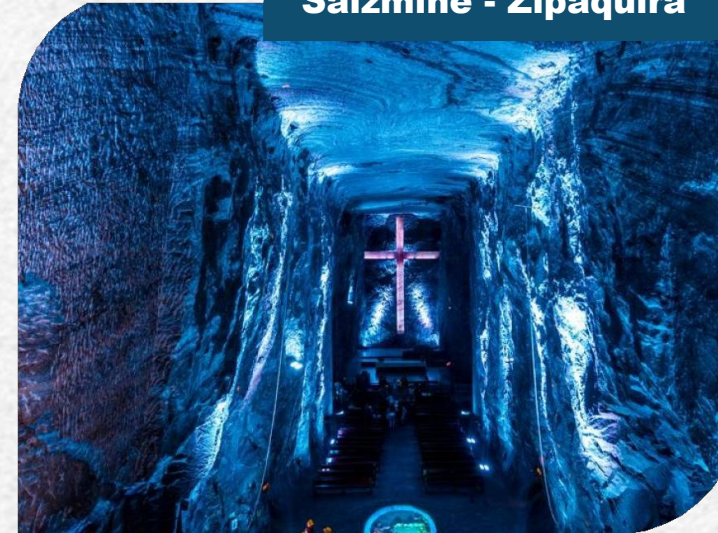
Monserate



Museo del Oro



Salzmine - Zipaquirá



Guatavita



District "la Candelaria"



Museo Botero



Sopó



Cajicá



Torre Colpatria



Chorro de Quevedo



TOURISM IN THE CAPITAL

- Tour Bogotá (1 day) Monserrate, Visiting Museo del Oro und the neighbourhood „la Candelaria" TOTAL 132.000 COP
- Tour Bogotá (2 days) Walking up Monserrate, Museos del Oro, de la independencia, Botero, visit of Chorro de Quevedo and Torre Colpatria TOTAL 100.000 COP

TOURISM CLOSE TO BOGOTÁ

Tourismus Sabana (2 days) Zipaquirá (salt mine), Sopó, Guatavita, Cajicá. Private transport TOTAL 548.000 COP

Are you ready for a big change in your life?

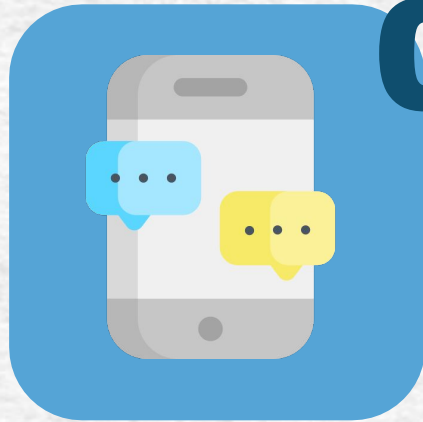
If you are interested and would like to participate in the program, send us an email to: viajerosdeesperanza@proyectounion.org

Fill out the online form and let us know the planned period of your stay. Attach your CV and a letter of motivation (in English or Spanish). The motivation letter must be at least one A4 page long and include information about your interests, motivations and any previous experience you may have had in volunteering, school, university or vocational training.



What is next?

01.



Send us your application and resume (CV) to our mail address

02.



Interview

03.



Confirmation by the Fundación:dispatch and verification of the documents..

04.



Pack your bags and let's go!

Prospective volunteers are advised to register with us at least six weeks before their planned arrival.



"Even after a year at the Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia, there were always moments when I was very impressed and moved by the incredible work of Fernando Quintero and his team. Every day they work tirelessly for children to make their lives as pleasant and easy as possible, despite all the difficulties and obstacles, and to support their personal development. I am very grateful for your wonderful work!"

*Milène (Germany)
Volunteer for one year at
Hogar Santa Rita*



"The volunteer service has changed my view of the world and also my life. When I first arrived, I was a bit intimidated by the new impressions, but over time I got used to it thanks to the work with the children. Here at the foundation, all the children are cared for by nurses, teachers, pre-service teachers and volunteers according to their individual needs. Since we arrived, the foundation has become our home."

*Flávia (Brazil)
Volunteer for 6 weeks for
Fundación Proyecto Unión*



"At Proyecto Unión it was a very special experience, I really liked the atmosphere here. The children (...) mean a lot to me and I invite everyone interested to get to know the Fundación. It is a unique experience!"

*Simon (Denmark)
Volunteer for 2 months for
Fundación Proyecto Unión*

Be a part of #ViajerodeEsperanza

Contact

Interested in our volunteer programs and want to learn more?

Send us an email at
viajerosdeesperanza@proyectounion.org
and we will get in touch with you.

We are happy to help you and look forward to your visit!

Follow us:



Visit our web page:
www.proyectounion.org