



# VOLUNTEER WORK

## ECUADOR



Volunteer work is an important part of our program. The majority of students get involved in social services depending on their areas of interest. It is a valuable opportunity to directly learn about one of the many sides of Ecuador, to develop a personal relationship with local people, and to cultivate your sense of belonging in your new host country.

### **FEVI – Fundación para la educación y el voluntariado internacional**

*In 2005, María Barragán, the USFQ Program Resident Director, started FEVI Ecuador, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that is dedicated to facilitating intercultural education and volunteer community service. Students on the USFQ program that choose to get involved in volunteering have the option of working at several of FEVI's centers and on a number of FEVI projects in and around Quito, in the Ecuadorian Pacific coast, and on the Galápagos Islands.*

## **OPTIONS IN QUITO & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

### **FEVI CHILD CARE CENTER**

Preschool for 40 kids ages 2 to 5. The center is located in the Lumbisí indigenous community, very close to Quito. Volunteers assist the teachers in their daily education and entertainment activities for the kids. Volunteers will also help the community mothers in preparing and serving lunch to the children.

### **PEDRO ECHEVERRIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

This is a public high school for boys and girls in the Lumbisí indigenous community, very close to Quito. The curriculum includes College Prep, carpentry, mechanics, baking and workshops. Volunteers will assist teachers in their daily educational activities.

### **LUMBISÍ ORGANIC GARDENS**

FEVI has started this project for the production of fresh vegetables for the kids and the elderly

people in the community. Volunteers will maintain the gardens, harvest produce and deliver them to the FEVI childcare center and the cafeteria in the Lumbisí elderly center.

### **ROTARY CLUB MEDICAL CENTER**

Community health center for low-income people. The center also provides adult education classes. The health center is located in Cumbaya, near Quito. Volunteers will help nurses and doctors and will also help in adult education classes such as how to use computers, gardening, sewing, baking and English.

### **LUMBISÍ ELDERLY CENTER**

Community cafeteria for elderly people in the Lumbisí community, very close to Quito. Volunteers will help prepare and serve food to the elderly. Volunteers will help disabled elderly in their daily walks to the center. Volunteers will also help in FEVI's organic garden to pick up fresh vegetables for the elderly. Volunteers will organize activities and games for the elderly.

### **ESCUELA JOSÉ VELASCO**

Small elementary school from grades 1 to 3. The school does a lot of artistic activities and also works with a small group of disabled kids. The center is located in Tumbaco, very close to Quito. Volunteers will assist teachers with their daily classroom activities.

### **RECONSTRUCTION OF TRADITIONAL HOMES**

We will recover these very old traditional homes. Most of them belong to elderly people who still reside there. The homes are in very poor living conditions. Volunteers will paint and provide better basic services for these homes, benefiting elderly people in the community.

## **OPTIONS IN THE PACIFIC COAST**

### **PUERTO QUITO TRADITIONAL FARM**

Small, family farm producing bananas, chocolate and coffee. The farm offers opportunities to learn about biodiversity and natural medicine. It is located in the tropical forest, three hours bus ride from Quito. Volunteers may also assist teachers in the community public school.

### **ESCUELA GONZALO PIZARRO**

Public elementary school for kids. The school teaches about 140 kids from very low-income families and has a very small staff. The school is located in Esmeraldas province in the Pacific Coast of Ecuador. Volunteers will assist teachers in their daily classroom activities. Volunteers will also help in health and nutrition campaigns.

## **OPTIONS ON THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS**

### **GALÁPAGOS HACIENDA TRANQUILA**

This is a farm located in San Cristóbal Island, the capital island of the Galápagos. Volunteers will work on the construction of a botanical garden and on the reforestation of the mountains of the island with native plants. Volunteers will assist in these two projects and also in environment education in the local elementary school.

## **INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?**

Most of these institutions are lacking in economic and human resources. Your involvement is very valuable and your presence at these institutions has a big impact.

Students interested in finding out more about these and other options available on the USFQ, Ecuador program should contact the Illinois Study Abroad Office (see first page for contact info). For students participating in the program, upon arrival to Ecuador there will be a tour to familiarize them to the variety of institutions. Students with other interests that are not represented here are always encouraged to speak to the SAO about the possibilities for volunteer work in Ecuador. There are always ways to get involved in the community.

