



**CARAS ALEGRES**  
*Home to Happy Faces*



**Caras Alegres**

**Internship: Psychologist**

*EntreMundos is a non-profit organization working with local projects and organizations in Guatemala to increase its institutional capacities.*

*The Internship Program is designed to match qualified individuals with organizations that need specific support, ensuring that both parties can benefit to the fullest from this experience.*

**Host Organization Description:**

Caras Alegres is a non-profit organization serving children and their families in Las Rosas, a neighborhood in the city of Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala. Las Rosas is an impoverished neighborhood where most families live at or below the poverty line. This lack of economic opportunities contributes to problems such as alcoholism, teenage pregnancies, and limited healthcare.

Founded in 2004, Caras Alegres is committed to strengthening this community by offering afterschool programming and other resources promoting the well-being of at-risk children. We partner with approximately 70 to 80 families, providing basic needs and educational opportunities to families that would otherwise not have them.

**Mission:** To provide and improve the general welfare of children and their families, who live in poverty, neglect and personal disintegration.

**Vision:** To fight the negative effects of poverty and to provide the children and their families with a positive outlook towards the future.

**Caras Alegres Tarde** is our core program. From Monday to Thursday we open up our doors in the afternoon for children between 5 and 14. We do handicrafts, sports, play different games... while teaching them about social values. One of the key motivations behind this program is the fact that it keeps up to 85 children off the streets.

**Community Lunch Room** is our other, and most recent, project that keeps the staff busy. We have 55 kids enrolled, and from Monday to Thursday they come to eat a nutritious lunch in our premises. The main incentive behind this project is the high levels of malnutrition among the children we attend.

We are a small, but growing, team of passionate Guatemalan and foreign people working together to accomplish the mission and vision of Caras Alegres. At the moment we are: Allan – General Director, Randi – Development Director, Jenna – Program and Volunteer Director, Daniel – Educational Program Assistant,



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Teresa – Cook, Gricelda – Assistant Cook, Eduardo – Guard and invaluable group of local and foreign volunteers.

### **Job Description:**

This internship is practical and has direct contact with children.

With children selected the intern makes diagnostics, treatment plans and reports on the progress. He/ she performs supervised individual and/or small group counseling with children who have challenges in their behavior and/or learning difficulties in various areas, and therefore need intervention and more one on one attention. The children we work with are between 5 and 14 years old, and our afternoon program provides a safe space for up to 70 children from Monday to Thursday. The counselling sessions will be held during those hours, on a scheduled basis.

The intern will be supervised by and reports to the General Director, who is a licensed psychologist. The intern will perform consultation to other staff members too. The intern will be an integrated part of the Caras Alegres team and may be asked to help in other tasks too.

The internship requires a minimum commitment of 3 months and is a full-time 30 to 40 hours per week. The time is divided between planning and direct contact with the children. Occasionally, and if requested, the intern participates and helps in the afterschool program, observing and/or leading activities. The intern will also take part in family visits in the community to be able to better understand the children's backgrounds and family situations.

The internship and responsibilities can be modified according to intern's experience and expertise, and the needs of the organization.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Works directly and/or indirectly with children, staff, volunteers and parents to help resolve problems in behavior and/or learning
- Develops appropriate interventions and strategies to assist individual children, and provides individual and/or group counseling on a scheduled basis
- Utilizes knowledge of behavioral principles to develop and assist in the implementation of specific behavioral management plans for individual children
- Maintains adequate up-to-date documentation interpreting and explaining assessment results with relevant recommendations, strategies and resources based on results
- Consults Caras Alegres staff and aids in intervention techniques and strategies designed to support individual children and group dynamics
- Interacts with staff, volunteers and children in a professional and ethical manner.

### **Requirements:**



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- Open heart and open mind
- High intermediate to Advanced Spanish
- Minimum two years of relevant studies completed
- Experience with children and children with problematic conduct/ challenging behavior
- Knowledge of and experience in therapy for learning challenges and/or disabilities
- Knowledge and basic skills in counseling practices and methods is a great advantage.
- Ability to plan, implement, evaluate and report activities conducted is an advantage
- Lots of patience and understanding, flexibility and ability to work under pressure and in a hectic environment
- Adaptability to new culture and surroundings and ability to quickly grasp the local context
- Ability to communicate effectively both in writing and orally
- Strong organizational skills
- High autonomy and teamwork skills and ability to take direction
- Ability to both give feedback and receive constructive feedback regarding performance, presentation and relationships with others and use it accordingly

### **Costs:**

The Internship Program requires a donation of US\$ 100.00 per month (US\$ 300.00 for 3 months), which will be shared evenly between the host organization and EntreMundos.

This includes the internship placement, pre-departure contact support, a pre-departure information package about Guatemala, contact support while in Guatemala, training, support and evaluations by the internship supervisor, a certificate of completion, and follow-up contact with EntreMundos afterwards. Additionally, we will strive to fulfill any bureaucratic functions we can taking into account our capacities as a small and non-profit NGO.

We expect the intern to pay his/ her own flights and other transportation costs (public transportation to the project is Q2.50/ day). Other additional expenses are health/travel insurance, medical expenses and living costs.

### **How to Apply:**

To apply, send the Internship Program Application, a cover letter written in Spanish and your CV to [volunteering@entremundos.org](mailto:volunteering@entremundos.org). Our Volunteer Programs Coordinator will be in touch with you, and if she feels that you are a possible candidate, will set up an interview time.