

Service-Learning

Mission: Connect2Bolivia empowers individuals to experience and understand the multicultural communities of Bolivia through a global classroom setting. This allows for a unique, firsthand experience with the geographically diverse and ever-changing world of Bolivia.



Vision: To establish a rewarding educational travel experience from a wide variety of cultural, religious, political, ethnic, and racial backgrounds in hopes of achieving long-lasting global relationships.

Introduction

About Us: Connect2Bolivia acts as a liaison between the Bolivian people and people from across the globe. To achieve lasting intercultural relationships, we offer a wide variety of services including but not limited to housing, transportation, excursions, field trips, independent and group traveling packages, private classes and tours with locals, medical travel assistance, service-learning, student teaching, Spanish & Quechua language courses, and exchange programs in Bolivia & the United States. We are seeking interest in Connect2Bolivia programs as well as University affiliated programs and developmental opportunities.

We welcome independents, students, educators, and professionals alike who seek a unique, cultural experience filled with adventure and learning.

Service-Learning

Service-Learning: Connect2Bolivia has established relationships with local centers and communities in the Cochabamba area for Service-Learning. Our goal is to design our Service-Learning projects with the center or community to meet needs identified by the community. We respect the core principals of Service-Learning!

We have established relationships with several centers including but not limited to a nutrition center for malnourished newborns to toddlers, female & male orphanages, rehabilitation centers, public & private hospital programs and an afterschool tutoring center for grade schools.

Please read below for more information on several of our placements! If you are looking for additional areas, let us know and we will connect you.

Public Health: El Centro de Nutrición Infantil Albina R. de Patiño (Huarakhasa) was founded in 2002. It is a private medical recovery and rehabilitation center for children who suffer from moderate to severe malnourishment. Patients remain hospitalized until they achieve full nutritional status recovery. There is also a day stay for patients with mild to moderate malnutrition.

Their mission is to improve the health of the Bolivian children and youth population through comprehensive care by malnutrition tracking, prevention training for families, new research methodologies and nutritional recovery strategies.



Their objective is to decrease infant morbidity and mortality from malnutrition and related causes through rehabilitation and to empower children and parents with the knowledge and skills necessary for safe food handling and nutritional awareness.

A number responsibilities include offering a helping hand in the children's rehabilitation through nurturing them, caring for their needs, playing with them, and instructing family members on nutritional strategies for improving and maintaining overall physical health.

For more information please visit: <http://pediatria.fundacionpatino.org/centros-de-salud/centro-de-nutricion-infantil-cochabamba/centro-de-nutricion-infantil/>

Private & Public Hospitals: There are several private hospitals located in Cochabamba as well as the main public hospital. Individuals will be able to compare Bolivia's private and public health care systems along with analyzing the differences within their own country and the world. One of the places students may choose to visit is the Children's Hospital for Burned Victims. Many of these children come from low income, poverty stricken families. For example, one child, age three, suffers from severe third degree burns. Her mother arrived home one night intoxicated and poured boiling water over her child. The mother escaped after the abuse occurred. Soon after, the neighbors found the child, they called the police, and the child was immediately admitted to the hospital. She is slowly recovering. This is just one of the many stories of these burn victims. Although *not all* are exposed to such abuse and their burns are accidental, of these children are often then abandoned and/or orphaned.



Hospitals are constantly seeking help from others. The students will have a number of responsibilities. They may be asked to help feed individuals during breakfast, lunch, snack, and dinner. Often due to their age and/or condition, patients cannot feed themselves. The students will also care for the patients by creating recreational games and simply being the positive figure they need in their lives. Moreover, they will be able to help with the patients' recovery by assisting in their physical therapy such as recovering simple body movements. For instance, the students may be asked to walk up and down the hallways with a child who is recovering from leg burns. Donations are always needed and greatly appreciated!

Hogars-Orphanages: Unlike other countries using a foster-care system, Bolivia has orphanages. There are several orphanages located in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Connect2Bolivia works mainly with privately funded orphanages.

These orphanages host a number of different types of children. There are orphanages that work primarily with younger age groups (infant to age 5) and young adolescences (6 to 12 years) to young adult (13 to 17 years). The majority of these children have been abandoned by their parents. Often these children are found by police in public restrooms, in garbage bins, or at bus stations. Some also suffer from mental or physical abuse. All homes work 24 hours day, 365 days a year.



There is a need for more personal care, educators, and overall help. These infants, toddlers, and young children need to be nurtured to be able to grow and mature. If individuals are seeking additional Public Health programs, please inform Connect2Bolivia and we will help connect them to other facilities. Orphanages are constantly looking for individuals interested in public health, social work, psychology, rehabilitation, and a passion for making a difference in young lives.

Danielo Gotti Albani came to Cochabamba, Bolivia over thirty-five years ago. He is a native to Italy and opened a house called “**Casa Familiar.**” It is an orphanage for individuals in their early teens to adulthood who have a mental or physical disability. Often in Bolivia, people who have disabilities are abandoned because others see them as too different. For those who have such challenges as Autism and Down Syndrome, Danielo has created a safe sanctuary. The center is a home and acts as a school, which educates these individuals and focuses on developing their strengths. This allows for all to have the opportunity for self-stability in the future. Danielo takes these individuals into his orphanage and cares for them. It is opened 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. They offer individuals a home, food, education, and a chance for a better tomorrow.



Students’ duties may include helping to care for individuals and acting as mentors. They may be asked to simply give attention to individuals by playing sports, coloring, reading, and encouraging them to live a more fulfilling life. Volunteers will also need to help in day-to-day tasks such as food preparation and overall tidy work. Rehabilitation and Sign Language are also needed!

Education: **Centro Educativo y Recreativo Fundacion Casari** was founded by **Massimo Casari**. He is a native to Malian, Italy. He came to Bolivia as a volunteer in the 1980s. He decided that the children in Cochabamba, Bolivia needed more help. So, he opened his own center which allows children of all ages to come and receive extra educational help. Many Bolivian children are forced to work for their parents at a young age, selling food on the streets, cleaning houses, etc. Often they are neglected and do not receive a well-balanced education. The center enables children to go to school, and then to receive extra help such as tutoring after school hours. This allows students to receive better grades and more opportunities for the future. The center also gives students breakfast, lunch, and dinner to make sure they are being well-nurtured.

The foundation is involved in “Intercampus” from Malian, Italy. Inter Malian is the internationally famous soccer team. They created “Intercampus,” which is an organization that involves third world countries in an International World Cup soccer game in Italy. They supply absolutely everything such as visas, daily meals, medical care, lodging, etc. Also, every year, professional soccer players and coaches from Inter Malian go to Bolivia to play with the children in Fundacion Casari to teach them new soccer moves.

Lastly, Fundacion Casari transports children from the penitentiary every weekend to play intramural sports at the center. In Bolivia, if a parent goes to jail and there is no one left to care for their children, then both parent and child go to jail together. There are no social facilities that take in these children. These youth are only allowed to leave the penitentiary to go to school. The Fundacion Casari transports these children to the center and allows them to play games, be educated, and have a good homemade meal. For more information please visit: www.comitatocasari.org



The organization is seeking help in educating children in English, Mathematics, Mannerism, Nutrition, Hygiene, Sciences, etc. Individuals will tutor daily and help students with their homework and will act as a mentor to guide students on their future educational journey. Individuals may even enjoy a game of soccer while educating them in sportsmanship. Often, these children are not well feed at home. Therefore, the center offers a daily nutritious meal for the children at the center. One may be asked to help in meal preparation and clean up.