

## Centre for Disabled Children



### Highlights

- Providing care, assistance, support and love to children who are often forgotten about by Bolivian society.
- Taking an active role in assisting with the running of a busy centre.
- Living in Sucre – one of Bolivia most beautiful cities.

### About The Project

The centre provides medical care and support for children with physical and mental disabilities. Most of the children are from very poor families who either cannot accept their disabilities, or, do not have the resources or knowledge to care for them. Many of the families make a living through working on the land, and as such, there is no one at home to care for the children who require a lot of attention and help, and as such, they send them to centre instead. The centre is one of the only institutions in Sucre that accepts children with physical and mental problems. Most other organizations are unable to offer the level of support and care that is needed. For this reasons, the centre is extremely busy and currently looks after approximately 400 children, from newborn babies, to 16-17 year olds.

### Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Sucre to get to know the city and learn how to get around and use the public transport system. In the afternoon there's an information session in which you will learn about the Academia, as well as about important issues such as security, do's and don'ts in Sucre, accommodation, volunteer work etc. Your volunteer placement commences on Tuesday of the first week.

Volunteers joining this project will have an immensely rewarding experience and be able to take part in many different activities during their time in Sucre.



Your role may include some or all of the following:

- Feeding, bathing and clothing the children
- Taking the children for walks and arranging outdoor activities
- Assisting with horseback therapy
- Helping medical staff with rehabilitation therapy
- Working in the laundry and garden
- Providing mentally stimulating activities for children who have physical difficulties but are mentally healthy
- Organizing didactic activities, such as arts and crafts



Some of the children at the centre solely have physical problems, and as such it's important they receive a lot of attention to keep their minds occupied with games and educational activities. You do not require medical experience to take part in this project – for any medically-related activities, such as rehabilitative therapy, you will be accompanied by medically qualified staff and trained accordingly. However, volunteers who do hold medical experience and an excellent level of spoken Spanish will also be able to work with children with severe mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorder and manic depression.

### **Location**

The project is a 15-20 walk from the Academia in Sucre.

Sucre is a beautiful city set in a valley and surrounded by low mountains. It has a rich colonial heritage and is also known as 'the white city' due to its numerous colonial buildings, all of which are painted white and topped with shiny red roofs. In 1991, it was granted 'UNESCO Cultural Heritage' status.

Sucre is home to many museums, a lively central plaza, shops, bars and restaurants. Locals and visitors alike are also attracted to markets where food, textiles and an assortment of other products are sold in barter fashion! The charming colonial town and its nearby villages feature a sizeable indigenous population and they have managed to maintain their customs and colorful dress.

### **Accommodation**

You will stay either at the student residence or with a host family. Host family accommodation includes a private room, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Singles, married couples and parents with children can all be accommodated. It is also possible to stay in a student residence – one is located within the school grounds, and there are two very nearby. Here you will self cater - there are shops and markets very nearby and a fully equipped kitchen.

### **Requirements**

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to build up a trusting relationship with the children and staff.

All volunteers must hold a high intermediate level of spoken Spanish. If your Spanish is at a lower level, you must join our Spanish language school prior to commencing your volunteer work.

When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Bolivia, it is important to remain flexible as the needs of the project are constantly evolving. This is what makes volunteering so rewarding – the fact that you are on hand to lend your support when and where it is needed. By choosing Academia Latinoamericana de Español you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

### **Feedback**

*"I love working with children, and so this project was an incredible opportunity for me. I want return to the project again soon and it's also made me realize I'd like to work with disabled children as a possible future career".*

Hillary Trainor, USA

### **Programme Fee Includes**

- Accommodation
- 2 meals per day if staying with a host family
- Project Support
- A donation that goes directly to your project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- Laundry service if staying with a host family
- 24 hour emergency support

### **Programme Fee Does Not Include**

- International flights
- Meals if staying at the student residence
- Laundry service if staying at the student residence
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

### **Travel Ideas**

We are fully equipped to help you with making weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time at the Academia. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and competitively priced trips. Some of the most popular trips include:

- La Paz – The World's highest capital city at 3660m above sea level! Wander the markets, visit the museums and sip coffee in the plazas. Good day trips from la Paz include: the Valle de la Luna - a maze of canyons and pinnacles, and Tiwanaku – Bolivia's most significant archeological site.
- Salar de Uyuni – Go on a 4WD adventure of the incredible lunar landscape of the world's largest salt flat. See giant cacti, red lakes, pink flamingo and steaming geysers!
- Pampas – visit the wetland savannas to spot a vast array of wildlife including caimans, monkeys, sloths, pink river dolphins and maybe even anacondas! Stay in riverside lodges, watch incredible sun sets and sun rises and sway the day away in hammocks!
- Lake Titicaca – South America's largest Lake which borders Peru and Bolivia. Stay on one of the floating islands for a true insight into the lifestyle and culture of the local communities.
- Potosi – scabble and crawl through the shafts of Potosi's mines and even let ff a stick of dynamite!

**Apply Now**

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at [sandra@latinoschools.ec](mailto:sandra@latinoschools.ec)

If you would like to book this programme, please [click here](#) to complete the booking form. We will be in touch within one week of application to confirm your booking!