

## Information for Student Groups / Service Trips

### About Constru Casa

Constru Casa is a small not-for-profit organization that aims to improve housing and living conditions of poor families in Guatemala. We build new, but simple houses in order to get those families on the path to a better future. We strongly believe in a holistic approach to development. Therefore we always select families in co-operation with local partner organizations, offering services in health care, education, or community building. As we also strongly believe in personal buy-in in development work, we require beneficiary families to participate in the construction of their home and pay a monthly contribution towards the partial cost of their house in monthly installments.

### Your Work

Students working with us on service trips will build houses in groups of four to six. You need *no special qualifications* and the labor will be divided according to physical strength. You will work under the close guidance and supervision of a skilled local mason and his helper. The work mainly consists of digging foundations, carrying materials, mixing concrete, laying block, etc.

### Your Impact

By building a house in Guatemala you will help a poor Guatemalan family break the cycle of poverty and get on the path to a better future. Constru Casa houses improve families' mental and physical health considerably, and you will directly help to make that impact. You will also have a positive effect on the families and their children's lives by talking with them and showing them a different outlook on life.

### Your Highlights

Constru Casa offers a unique cultural experience. Students will share intensive work time with local masons, often becoming friends with them. You also have the opportunity to share the lives of a disadvantaged Guatemalan family and gain insight into their culture and their struggles. You will also be getting to know our social partner organizations, thus learning more about international cooperation and development. And, you will be surprised how much your Spanish skills will improve in just a short time! Additionally, you will be able to enjoy activities such as learning about coffee production, visiting traditional indigenous markets, or climbing a volcano.

### Your Stay

You will stay in beautiful Antigua, offering a pleasant and safe atmosphere, and you will work in one of the surrounding villages. Stays in more rural areas can be arranged if requested.

It takes approximately two weeks to build a Constru Casa house. This is also the period of time we encourage groups to stay with us, in order to be part of constructing a complete home.

Constru Casa wants to ensure that you enjoy a safe, enriching, and fun experience in Guatemala. We will provide a complete orientation to the project, the construction work and full assistance during your stay. Constru Casa staff will arrange accommodation (hotel, hostel or home stay), transportation and a Spanish school, if needed and organize free time activities, such as volcano climbing, trips to the beach, etc.

- Build a complete house!
- Help improve the lives of disadvantaged families!
- Improve your Spanish!
- Work with a high quality development organization!
- Experience Guatemala and its culture from within!
- Have a safe, enriching, and fun trip!

### Fundraising

Student groups are asked to fundraise for the Constru Casa house(s) that they help build. We suggest that you organize a fundraising event or find sponsors through your school, family, friends or other resources. We will provide you with all the information and promotional materials necessary to carry out such an event. These fundraisers are a crucial part of Constru Casa's success and we rely heavily on the spirit and activism of our student groups and volunteers.

### Contact Us!

If you would like to know more and ask specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: [voluntario@construcasa.org](mailto:voluntario@construcasa.org)

Or have a look at: [www.construcasa.org](http://www.construcasa.org)

Constru Casa is affiliated with CDP Congressional District Programs and a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the US.

