

Service Trips / Information for Students

Constru Casa: Building New Homes for Needy Guatemalan Families

Dear Professor

I am working for a small non-profit organization called Constru Casa that builds simple houses for poor families in Guatemala.

We work with volunteers on our construction sites, and **I am currently trying to recruit student groups** organizing international service trips for our organization. I would like to ask for your help in bringing our program to the attention of students organizing such trips.

Let me briefly tell you about Constru Casa and why we think that participating in our organization will be **highly enriching and beneficial to your students.**

Constru Casa aims to **improve housing and living conditions of poor families** with a new house in order to get those families on the path to a better future. We strongly believe in a holistic approach to development. Therefore always select families in co-operation with local partner organizations, which offer 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.

Students working with us will **build houses in small groups.** They need no special qualifications and the labor will be divided according to physical strength. They 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, etc. The important part though is in the interaction with local people (the masons, the families and people in the local communities) and the knowledge they acquire about Guatemala, development work and cultural difference. Importantly, they will also considerably improve their Spanish language skills. However, Spanish language is not a requirement.

Over the past five years, Constru Casa has successfully involved and worked with **over one hundred volunteers.** We have ample experience to organize all related aspects of such a service trip (accommodation, transport, food, free time activities, Spanish schools, etc.). Constru Casa will ensure that students are taken good care of and will have an exceptionally rewarding and enriching experience in Guatemala. We will gladly provide you with reference contacts of former volunteers to make inquiries.

It would be a great pleasure to receive students from your university for our service trip program. I would also be very grateful if we could count on you to forward our information material to interested students or other professors.

I thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at: stefan@construcas.org or visit: www.construcasa.org.

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Ege
Operations Manager – Asociación Constru Casa