

Keene State College

International Service Trip to El Progreso, Guatemala Habitat for Humanity

January 5th – January 15th, 2011



Thank you for your interest in the Keene State College International Service Trip to El Progreso, Guatemala. This program provides a significant leadership opportunity and memorable learning experience for all involved. The program exposes students to complex social and cultural issues through direct service, experiential learning, discussion and reflection. The program allows students to apply classroom learning to real world topics.

While completing this application please keep in mind that it is an important component to the entire application process. Because there are only thirteen available spots for this trip, this application serves as a tool to properly select the most eligible applicants. With that being said, we urge you to put the required time and effort into completing this application.

Applications are due **Friday, September 24, 2010** by 4:00 p.m. to the Community Service Office. When handing in your application, please sign up for a twenty-minute interview on the Community Service Office door with either Ian or Lindsey. Trip participants will be required to pay \$700.00 per person, through two separate payments. This price includes travel, lodging, meals and transportation for the entire trip.

Throughout the school year there is much to be done in preparation for the International Service Trip to El Progreso, Guatemala. As part of this experience, you will participate in training sessions, group meetings and fundraising events. Due to the amount of planning involved, all meetings are mandatory. Failure to attend meetings can result in losing your spot on the service trip. You **will also be required to work a shift at our table during Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, October 16th**. Extra money made fundraising will be put towards recreational activities while on the trip. We encourage you to stop by the Community Service Office anytime to get more information on the program. Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application.

After all applications are submitted, they will be reviewed by the International Service Trip Leadership Team. You will be notified of your acceptance through e-mail by 6:00 PM on October 6th, 2010. **Please Note:** Only students who are of good academic and judicial standing with the college will be accepted on this trip.

2011 International Service Trip ...Background Information

What is Habitat for Humanity International?

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1 million people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. HFHI was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller along with his wife, Linda.

Habitat for Humanity – Guatemala

Mission

Habitat for Humanity Guatemala works in association with God and people of all walks of life to develop communities with people in need through the construction and renovation of houses, allowing every person to have a decent home in their community.

History

Established in 1979 with the purpose of improving the lives of low-income families in Guatemala through the construction of adequate, affordable housing, Habitat for Humanity Guatemala was the first Habitat organization in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Since the construction of its first home in Aguacatán, Huehuetenango over 30 years ago, Habitat Guatemala has served more than 32,218 families and has extended its work to each of the country's 22 states.

Housing Needs in Guatemala

The housing deficit in Guatemala is estimated at approximately 1.2 million homes. Many of these families live in poorly constructed houses made of unstable materials, such as adobe, corrugated metal sheets, wood planks or palm thatching. Others, who lack even this basic structure, pay more than half of their monthly income on rent or crowd into homes where several families occupy the same small house or room.

One of the most significant challenges to housing in Guatemala is access to land. Many low-income families have no legal proof that they own the land they inhabit; in other words, despite having viably purchased or inherited their land, they lack legal tenure. In other cases, informal settlements inhabit property belonging to the state or private enterprise, where families face the daily risk of forced eviction. These properties rarely have basic utilities and are often located in vulnerable areas, such as ravines and river banks. Even when a family has moderate income or has managed to save a small amount of money, obtaining a loan to purchase land or buy a home in Guatemala is often still challenging. Many Guatemalan families attest that, without Habitat for Humanity, they would not have been able to build or improve their home.

2011 International Service Trip Important Dates

Friday, September 24, 2010	Participant Applications Due
Monday, September 27, 2010 - October 2, 2010	Participant Interviews
Wednesday, October 6, 2010	Applicants notified by 6:00 PM
Monday, October 11, 2010	First Team/Pumpkin Festival meeting
Friday, October 29, 2010, 4:30 PM	Team Meeting *First Payment of \$350.00 due by 4:00 PM
Friday, November 12, 2010, 4:30 PM	Team Meeting
Friday, November 19, 2010, 4:30 PM	Team Meeting *Second Payment of \$350.00 due by 4:00 PM
Friday, December 3, 2010, 4:30 PM	Team Meeting
Friday, December 10, 2010, 4:30 PM	Last Team Meeting
January 5 - 15, 2011	Travel Dates to Guatemala
Date/Time to be determined	Reflection/Planning meeting
Date/Time to be determined	Trip Presentation Dinner

Upon acceptance participants are required to submit their first payment of \$350.00 no later than October 29, 2010 by 4:00 p.m. to Deb Edwards on the third floor of the Student Center. Only cash or check will be accepted. **Please make checks payable to Keene State College. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS.** The second payment will be due no later than November 19, 2010 by 4:00 p.m.

2011 International Service Trip Participant Application

Deadline: Friday, September 24, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

L.P. Young Student Center
Community Service Office (3rd) floor
229 Main Street Keene, NH 03435-3003
Phone: 603-358-2665
Email: mmcentee@keene.edu

Personal Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Campus Address: _____ Mail Stop: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Major (s): _____

Expected Graduation month/yr: _____ Date of Birth mm/dd/yy: _____

Do you have a current passport? : _____

(If yes please note that it must be valid six months after January 15, 2011. Please attach a copy of your passport, or a statement showing you have applied to get one.)

2011 International Service Trip Personal Response

Note to Applicant: The following questions are a valuable piece of information which will strongly influence our decision for acceptance. Use these questions to exemplify yourself as a strong candidate for this trip. We expect you to take as much time, and space, as needed to fulfill these expectations.

1. How will participating in a trip to Guatemala contribute to your educational and personal goals?
2. What do you consider your greatest strength? In what ways will this benefit the team?
3. What do you foresee as any challenges that you may have to overcome while on this international service trip?
4. Give us a glimpse of where your future may lie in terms of service to others. How does an international trip fit in your plans?
5. Briefly explain any involvement you've had within any organizations on campus or in the community.
6. Explain any previous service related travel experience.
7. Please attach a photo of yourself to the application.

Please Note:"Two Keene State College alumni who participated in the Global Village trips during their time at Keene would like to provide partial scholarships to allow other students to have the amazing experience that they had in Guatemala. Habitat for Humanity Global Village trips have impacted their lives and built long lasting friendships and they would like others to have similar experiences that will inspire them to continue to be committed to service to others." **If you are interested in this opportunity please email jlabelle@ksc.mailcruiser.com to inquire, before your interview date.**

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Please sign up for an individual interview with either Ian or Lindsey when you hand in your application.