



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JANUARY WORK PARTY 2009

Bahia Street is a non-governmental organization based in Brazil, the US, and the UK dedicated to breaking cycles of poverty and violence through education. Bahia Street provides a well-rounded education to sixty girls as a supplement to their attendance in local public schools. Girls spend at least four hours a day at the Bahia Street Center where they receive instruction in all basic subjects, and in health and reproduction, art, and leadership.

The Bahia Street volunteer program is designed to give participants a personal experience with a non-governmental organization working to promote education and social justice. Volunteers contribute to Bahia Street's overall mission by creating a positive and clean environment in which Bahia Street students can learn and grow up in good health. Bahia Street offers experiences in which volunteers can work side-by-side Bahia Street staff members and learn through them about the issues facing Bahia Street students in Brazil.

WHAT: Each summer vacation in Salvador, Bahia Street organizes a team of people to help get the school ready for the new year. The building needs to be cleaned, painted, and reorganized for a new school year. Volunteers will work under the direction of school director Rita Conceição (please see <http://www.bahiastreet.org/programs/about/> for more information about Rita). A highlight of the program is the daily lunch the Bahia Street staff provides the work team. Some Portuguese language is recommended, though not required.

WHO: January work party volunteers come from all backgrounds—students, teachers, mid-career professionals looking for a working holiday, and long-term visitors to Salvador looking for a local connection with an NGO. We aim to recruit up to 10 individuals who stay for at least 2 weeks.

WHEN: Arrive on January 10 or 11, 2009 to join the work party from January 12-30, 2009. We ask for a minimum of a one week commitment and can accommodate volunteers for up to three weeks.

WHERE: Bahia Street Center, Salvador

COST: We request a donation of \$300 to cover the cost of the paints and materials since they are not included in our monthly budget. This donation also pays for lunch and the staff time involved in organizing the work party.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for securing their own accommodation. If needed, Bahia Street will provide suggestions, depending on the volunteer's interests. Past visitors have stayed in guesthouses, hotels, and with friends.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteers are responsible for all expenses incurred in this program, including airfare, hotel/apartment, airport transfers, local transportation, and all meals (besides the lunches provided at the Center). American citizens will need to get a visa to go to Brazil. Volunteers will be required to sign a standard release as part of their participation in the program.

How do you secure your spot?

1. Confirm your availability to be in Salvador for January 2009 by email or phone by November 1, 2008 (info below). Please let us know (a) tentative dates for your arrival and departure and (b) whether or not you will need helping finding a place to stay.
2. Complete the January Work Party Volunteer Application Form by November 1, 2008.
3. Send \$300 deposit to Bahia Street. We welcome checks, or you may visit our website and use the Paypal donate function there: <http://www.bahiastreet.org/donate/>.

Once we have your information and a better sense of who is going, we will be sending our more specific information about the team, Salvador, accommodation, etc. All participants will be required to complete a liability and participation form. For more information about Bahia Street, please visit www.bahiastreet.org.

Please note: Volunteers and trip participants are advised to contact the Brazilian Consulate to confirm current visa requirements and regulations before purchasing airline tickets to Brazil. Bahia Street is not responsible for providing visa information for trip planning purposes.

Bahia Street advises participants to purchase travel insurance that covers the loss of personal property and valuables, including airline tickets and passports.

Questions?

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