



"Volunteering at the Center allowed us to join an instant community, not be a traveler or outsider. The beauty of volunteering at the Bahia Street Center is that you can see the trail that you leave."

JANUARY 2011 WORK PARTY VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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 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 academic year (which begins in February). The building needs to be cleaned, painted, and reorganized for a new school year. Volunteers 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 two weeks. Volunteers work side-by-side Center staff, a wonderful group of individuals who share their knowledge and experiences with visitors.

WHEN: Arrive on January 8 or 9, 2011 to join the work party from **January 10-21, 2011**. We ask for a minimum of a one week commitment.

WHERE: Bahia Street Center, Salvador, located near Pelhourinho (exact details sent to confirmed participants)

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. The fee is refunded in the case where a placement cannot be made. It is non-refundable should the volunteer cancel.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for securing their own accommodation. Bahia Street can provide a limited number of suggestions based on past volunteer experiences, though guidebooks do a better job of staying up to date on prices and conditions. Past visitors have stayed in guesthouses, hostels, hotels, and with friends. We recommend that you book a hotel or hostel in Salvador in advance (at least for the first few days of your stay). If you are interested in renting an apartment in Salvador, it is best to arrange this upon arrival. While we cannot make advance arrangements for apartments, Bahia Street can refer participants to a trusted real estate agent once they are in Salvador.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteers are responsible for all expenses incurred in this program, including airfare, hotel or apartment, airport transfers, local transportation, and all meals (besides the lunches provided at the Center). American and some other citizens will need to get a tourist visa to go to Brazil. Participants book plane flights independently. All volunteers must sign a participation agreement and submit a medical form.

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. While we can advise on visa issues, Bahia Street is not responsible for providing visa information for trip planning purposes. The information changes from time-to-time and may relate to the traveler's specific conditions.

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

Volunteer placements can change. Volunteers need to be flexible as their volunteer duties, schedule and activities can change according to the program's needs or scheduling. In these situations, Bahia Street will do its best to balance the volunteer's preferences with the project's needs.

How do you secure your spot?

1. Confirm your availability to be in Salvador for January 2011 by email or phone as soon as possible.
2. Complete the January Work Party Volunteer Application Form by November 1, 2010.
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 form and medical release and to pay the \$300 placement fee. For more information about Bahia Street, please visit www.bahiastreet.org.

For more information, please contact:

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