LASALLIAN SERVICE INTERNSHIP
2016

INTERNATIONAL SITE

LOCATION: Bacolod City, Philippines

Bahay Pag-asa (House of Hope) Youth Center
University of St. La Salle – Granada Campus
Brgy. Granada
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Philippines

The Bahay Pag-asa Youth Center was established as a separate corrective and transformational facility exclusively for children in conflict with the law in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental. The Center aims to: Administer a holistic formation/transformational program with emphasis on basic education, spiritual formation, life skills and livelihood skills; Provide competent and committed legal services which will include non-formal learning modules on criminal behavior and its consequences; Provide an interfaced support system for the youth offenders after their release composed of the family, the school or workplace, the church, and the community to ensure successful re-integration; and pilot, assess and improve the program so that it may serve as a model for youth rehabilitation which maybe replicated in other areas of the country.

PHONE: 011 63 34 703 8988 (Mrs. Desiree Tongson, Bahay Pag-asa House Supervisor)

WEBSITE: http://www.usls.edu.ph/Bahay%20Pag-asa/site/

SITE DIRECTOR: Ms. Jensan Lazarito, Director – Bahay Pag-asa Youth Center

LSI CONTACT: Br. Daniel Fenton, FSC
brdanfenton@hotmail.com
011 977 172 9960

ORIENTATION LEADER: Brother Dominic Berardelli, FSC and former LSI students
(SMC Brother who knows Bahay Pag-asa well due to his leadership roles for the Brothers in that region)
bdominic@stmarys-ca.edu
(925) 631-4183

SUPERVISOR: Students will be supervised by Br. Dan Fenton, FSC (San Francisco New Orleans District Brother, who spent 10 summers leading student volunteers from U.S. Lasallian Schools to Bahay Pag-asa, and now
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lives and teaches there.) Students will also be accompanied by a Saint Mary’s College staff or faculty member.

# OF LSI STUDENTS: 4

SERVICE WORK:
   Students will spend time and engage in activities with the youth at Bahay Pag-asa. They will take part in programs such as Basic Education, Spiritual Formation and Values Education, and Livelihood and Skills Training Program. Students will also get to know, and be a role model and presence to the youth, in games and other recreational activities.

QUALIFICATIONS OR SKILLS REQUESTED:
   Due to the nature of the work with young men in a correctional facility, a high level of maturity and willingness to follow the rules and expectations are required.

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF COURSE: $2,090
   Estimates based on the following costs:
   • $210.00 – Materials fee (includes $35 insurance fee)
   • $1390.00 – Airfare (Tickets should be purchased with Philippine Airlines (PAL) for ease of transition from international to domestic terminal for flight from Manila to Bacolod City)
   • $240.00 – Room and board ($10 per day for 24 days)
   • $50.00 – Transportation
   • $200.00 – Excursions and Cultural Activities

Please note:
   • Most LSI costs are estimates, and may vary depending on flight costs at the time airline tickets are purchased, total days/night stay, etc.
   • Additional costs not included in estimate above may include: passport and visa fees, exchange rate fees, vaccination costs, personal souvenirs, small thank you gifts you may want to purchase for hosts, etc.
   • Approximate travel dates from SFO: January 4-30, 2016

VISA/PASSPORT:
   • A valid passport is required and must have validity for 6 months beyond the end of intended stay
   • No visa is required for stays under 30 days

VACCINATIONS:
   The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that travelers to any foreign country are up to date on their routine vaccinations. These include measles-mumps-
rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

In addition, travelers to the Philippines are advised by the CDC to get the following vaccines because there is a risk of these diseases:

- **Hepatitis A** - CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in the Philippines, regardless of where you are eating or staying.
- **Typhoid** - You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in the Philippines. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.

Complete information can be found on the CDC’s “Health Information for Travelers to the Philippines” webpage that can be found at:


In addition, please consult your personal physician regarding any additional steps you should take to protect your health.

**ACCOMODATIONS:**

Students will stay at Bahay Pag-as; Male and Female students will be housed in separate “quarters.” Male students will each have their own bathroom, and female students will share a bathroom.

**RISKS/EMERGENCIES:**

Bahay Pag-as is about 8 miles from Riverside Hospital.

**COMMUNICATION:**

It is best to communicate through email, Facebook, Skype, etc. However, Internet connections can be intermittent.

**COURSE WORKLOAD:**

- Requirements as listed on the syllabus
- Includes four required fall seminars and possible additional meeting for further information on this particular location

**BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS**

Students must respect the following guidelines:

- Due to the fact that there will be no Saint Mary’s College supervisor present, a high level of maturity and independence is expected
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• Be aware of norms and expectations regarding appropriate clothing; Wear comfortable clothing
• No drugs or alcohol allowed
• Students should expect to participate in community life including daily prayer/reflection, shared meals (if community members take turns cooking, you may be asked to cook!) and other community activities
• Curfews will be enforced, and will be discussed with students upon arrival

CULTURAL AWARENESS:
From Brother Dan Fenton: The Philippines has a wide variety of religious entities, but the overall culture is predominantly Catholic (with the exception of Muslim areas in the south islands). The residents at Bahay Pag-asa attend Mass, pray the rosary, and are involved in faith-sharing. Volunteers need not be Catholic, but must be willing to be respectfully present at these prayer services. Short pants are commonly worn on the streets and in shopping areas, but not in schools, churches, city offices, or government buildings. Attitudes toward appropriate dress are more conservative in the provinces (areas outside of Manila). Volunteers should plan on arriving wearing long pants as they may go directly from the airport to a reception event. Filipinos are very proud of their national and cultural heritage and are easily offended by critical statements from foreigners. Volunteers should be prepared to demonstrate politeness at all times and refrain from making judgmental statements about the Philippines and even the conditions of poverty that they may see. In social interactions Filipinos tend to be non-confrontational, deferential, quieter (in conversation) than most Americans, and they exercise the virtues of patience and humility (not common American virtues). Filipinos tend to love laughter, music, dance, art and celebrations - so volunteers should be prepared to smile, enjoy the hospitality of the Philippines and have a very good time here.

FOOD:
From Brother Dan Fenton: Filipinos are very proud of their native foods and will want volunteers to try lots of local specialties. The food at Bahay Pag-asa Youth Center, however, is simple (matching our budget) and may be very different from what volunteers normally eat. There are three meals each day, plus an afternoon snack. Each meal includes steamed rice. Breakfast can include small amounts of scrambled egg, SPAM, or sardines. Lunch is a bowl of soup served with the rice, and dinner usually has some small fish, a fish soup, some canned corned beef, or a small piece of chicken (along with the rice). The volunteers can visit a grocery store and buy comfort foods to supplement what they eat with the boys. Volunteers are not required to eat everything offered, but wasting food here is very much looked-down-upon. Volunteers will learn a few simple rules about how to refrain from eating particular things without wasting food or causing offense. This volunteer site is not a very good place for volunteers with food allergies (the ingredients of meals are hard to monitor), those with restrictive diets, or vegetarians/vegans. The youth center cannot provide multiple food options and it is important to the boys to have volunteers eat with them. Volunteers will be provided purified drinking water and, as such, they should avoid drinking tap water.