LASALLIAN SERVICE INTERNSHIP
2016

INTERNATIONAL SITE

LOCATION: San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico

Casa de Los Angeles Daycare
Enrique Velasco Ibarra #9
Colonia Santa Julia
San Miguel de Allende, Gto 37734
Mexico

Casa de Los Ángeles, in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, is a community of caring people who gather to nurture children in a daycare setting and serve the needs of the less fortunate. In addition to daycare, the centers provide a place for mothers to find the support and the help they need to make a good life for themselves and their children. Casa de Los Angeles is able to provide medical care for the families, a food bank, clothing, transitional housing and scholarships opportunities.

PHONE: 011 52 415 154 5512 (volunteer house)
011 52 415 154 0720 (daycare center)

WEBSITE: www.casadelosangeles.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/youareanangel

SITE DIRECTOR: José Miguel Hernández Chávez – Director
Donna Quathamer – Founder

LSI CONTACT: Cale Johnstone
Volunteer Coordinator - Casa de Los Angeles
youareanangel@gmail.com
011 52 415 154 5512

ORIENTATION LEADER: Previous LSI Casa de los Angeles student/s

SUPERVISOR: Cale Johnstone, full-time volunteer coordinator of Casa de Los Angeles, will directly supervise students. (There will be no Saint Mary’s College supervisor accompanying them.)

# OF LSI STUDENTS: 2-5

SERVICE WORK: Assist with children at the daycare center
LASALLIAN SERVICE INTERNSHIP
2016

QUALIFICATIONS OR SKILLS REQUESTED:
Some Spanish language skills are helpful but not required; Willingness to complete a separate application for Casa de Los Angeles once accepted to this site through LSI (The application is just for their records.)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF COURSE: $1,590
- $210.00 – Materials Fee (includes $35 insurance fee)
- $430.00 – Airfare
- $400.00 – Lodging, linens/towels, cable/wireless Internet, and daily cleaning services, breakfast & lunch Monday - Friday
- $400.00 – Dinner stipend for 30 days, 8 weekend days of breakfasts & lunches (On weekdays, breakfast and lunch is served at the daycare)
- $30 – Lavenderia (for washing clothes)
- $20.00 – Round trip transportation (pre-arranged shuttle) from the nearest airport in Leon, BJX to San Miguel de Allende. (The cost to be split between students traveling together.)
- $100.00 – Excursions and Cultural Activities (This is an estimate – it is possible to spend less or more)

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 at least 1 blank page and validity for 6 months beyond the end of intended stay
- No visa is required, but a tourist card is required. For those flying into Mexico from the United States, that fee and card is often already included in the cost of airfare

For more information, visit the “Entry Requirements for Mexico” webpage of the Embassy of the United States at:

http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/eacs_sheet.html

VACCINATIONS:

From Casa de Los Angeles: We do not have vaccination requirements to volunteer at Casa de los Angeles. However, it is recommended to visit a travel health clinic before coming. Being up-to-date on hepatitis A and tetanus vaccines are important. All is optional and volunteers can decide what vaccines that want to get prior to coming. They will not need malaria pills since this is not a place where you will find malaria. Depending on their travels after (if they decide to travel), they may be in different conditions.
LASALLIAN SERVICE INTERNSHIP  
2016

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 Mexico 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 Mexico, regardless of where you are eating or staying.
- **Typhoid** - You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in Mexico. 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 Mexico” webpage that can be found at:


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

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The Volunteer House located near the center of town and less than a mile from the daycare. The house has warm running showers, a large outdoor patio, kitchen area, dining room, and large lounging room. Dinner and weekend meals are not included, but there are a variety of restaurants nearby and the house has a fully supplied kitchen. Volunteers can expect to share the house with other volunteers from different parts of the world. There are 6 rooms in the Volunteer House and each room has two (or three) beds. A Laundromat is nearby, or clothes may be hand washed.

**RISKS/EMERGENCIES:**

The neighborhoods that we live and work in are safe. Also, since San Miguel de Allende is so secure, it has become quite a popular travel destination and there is a large population of foreigners living here. It is safe for students to walk around alone during the day, but it's best for them to walk with others at night. They can also take taxis at night if traveling a far distance. However, whenever traveling in any foreign country (or even within the US), students must be cautious and have street-sense. They must have a level of maturity and be prepared to travel.

The volunteer coordinator lives and works with the students 24/7. Therefore, he/she is available to help in any situation, including emergencies. Also Donna (the Founder) and Miguel (the Director) are always available to help in any emergency. The City of San Miguel has all the services to deal promptly and professionally during an emergency situation.

Working with children brings with it the chance of catching colds. There is a small clinic near the volunteer house where a consultation costs 40 pesos.
COMMUNICATION:
Call Service: The Volunteer House has a phone available to all volunteers. Only long-distance calls using a calling card may be made from the house. A good way to phone the USA is with a calling card. This phone can take all incoming calls and can be used for local calls. Therefore, family members may call students at any time. There are also phones located at most Internet cafes throughout the city.

Internet: Most restaurants and cafes now have Internet throughout San Miguel. There is also WiFi at both the Daycare Center and the Volunteer House. Students can easily keep in touch during their stay with us if they bring their computer/iPad/iPhone/smart phone. Also, there are MANY Internet cafes that cost less than a dollar an hour that they can easily use around town. During the afternoon the children nap for about 1.5 hours and at that time students can go around the corner to use the Internet at the café-- if they don’t bring their own computer (they provide cameras/microphones). There will be no problem communicating with people back home or keeping up with class work/ sending assignments.

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 are expected to be representatives for Casa de Los Angeles during their stay with us. This means that they must follow the mission: treating each person with dignity and respect as they work to make a better life for themselves and the community as a whole. Students must treat everyone with this same level of respect at the daycare and Volunteer House. They must realize that they are entering the personal lives of my many families and need to have a cultural awareness at all times. Also, since there is a lot of free time, volunteers are expected to have a high level of maturity and independence during their stay.

CULTURAL AWARENESS:
Mexico has a different culture from the U.S. which means: different traditions, language, food, etc. Therefore, life in central Mexico will be very different in many aspects than life within the US. The students will need to be open to eating different foods at the daycare than they are used to, will need to break through language-barriers with children and teachers if they don't speak Spanish, and learn to understand the different traditions and festivities of the Mexican people. These differences will enhance the students’ stay and will make the experience that much more valuable. Also, since the students are only required to work at the daycare Monday- Friday from 9 am-3:30pm, they are free weekdays after 3pm and on weekends. Besides helping at our center, being in San Miguel is a great opportunity to explore the Mexican culture throughout the city. There are many fiestas and festivals, celebrating everything from Three Kings Day to the Revolution of 1810. San Miguel is a very lively place with live music every night, art galleries on every corner, and lots of fun weekend activities (4-wheeling, horseback riding, hot springs, etc.). Students should expect to take part in the community activities and to enjoy learning about the culture during their time at Casa de Los Angeles.