

# EVS in Guatemala

## Hosting organizations



### EVS in Guatemala - Description of Hosting Organizations

In order to promote the active citizenship of young people and to give them the opportunity to experience life in different environment, develop their understanding of other cultures, and work on the understanding of the notion to be a European citizen, we wish to send 20 young volunteers (5 at the same time for 4 rounds) to the project in Guatemala, where they would be helping with different activities including social, cultural, practical and intercultural tasks.

The project is targeted at young people with "fewer opportunities" coming from different social and cultural backgrounds, that mean that young people with educational, financial, family or other problems are the main target group of the project. The EVS, especially carried out in a country outside Europe, will be a great opportunity for them to change their life in a

positive direction, raise their self-esteem and develop their skills and competences. 20 young people from 5 different countries of Europe will spend two months voluntary service in Latin America. This large-scale project will promote also in the local communities involved the intercultural tolerance and dialogue and will fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia. As Guatemala and the whole Latin America has strong cultural links to Europe determined by the historical evolution, the project will also promote cooperation and friendship among the people of both regions.

The project will also develop solidarity and promote active citizenship among young people. Twenty young people from Europe, although facing difficult situations in their daily life, will come for two months to Guatemala, a developing

country, to help the local community.

#### Hosting Organizations in Quezaltenango:

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## El Nahual

### Community Centre

El Nahual Community Centre is a non-profit organization. During the week their focus is on providing educational programmes to impoverished children through the project Manos de Colores, but on Saturdays the focus turns to adults. Saturday mornings they offer an Accelerated Primary School for adults above the cut-off age for Primary School but who never had the chance to complete a formal education, as well as English classes. The school runs from 9am to 1pm. El Nahual is funded by the Spanish school of the same name, created with the specific purpose of funding the project. El Nahual was founded in the year 2004.

#### Usefull link :

<http://www.independentvolunteer.org/index.php?n=All.Guatemala-ElNahualLanguageCentre>

#### Contact Person(s) :

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APV in Quetzaltenango,  
29 April 2011

Representatives of the EU organizations  
visiting the hosting organization El Nahual

**Activities for the volunteer :** The volunteer will have Spanish lessons during the morning (8 - 12) and volunteering activities during the afternoon. The volunteering activities consist of :

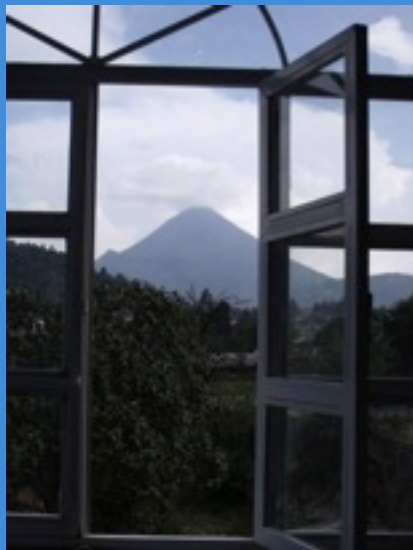
- To teach English to adults/children in the programme;
- To make after school activities with children: Math/Spanish/English/Music/other classes (3 - 5 pm)
- To help El Nahual to organize weekly activities such as Movie night, salsa class, common lunch etc
- To up-to-date the El Nahual's website with information about EVS, personal article and photos about their experience in the HO ; send articles to local newspaper
- To make a video about their EVS and promote it
- Organize extra activities (French/Polish etc. cultural night, cooking lesson etc.)
- To help El Nahual to improve community education center
- Additional volunteer opportunities include working in our organic community garden and helping us build a new and improved community education center.

**Language :** The volunteer should know the basic Spanish language before start the EVS.

Spanish language skills preferred but not essential

Approximate timetable of week activities :

Activities Timetable	Mon	Tue	Wen	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning 08:00 - 12:00	Spanish school	Spanish school	Spanish school	Spanish school	Spanish school	FREE TIME	FREE TIME
Afternoon 13:00 - 17:00	Afterschool Activities with children  Helping children with homework  Meeting with volunteers	Afterschool Activities with children  Teaching English in local schools  Movie night	Afterschool Activities with children  Helping children with homework	Afterschool Activities with children  Teaching activities	Afterschool Activities with children  Extra activities	FREE TIME	FREE TIME



## Proyecto La Pedrera

La Pedrera is an indigenous impoverished community in the Southern Highlands of Guatemala. Lacking education, the people of La Pedrera have access to employment only in domestic and physical labor. These low-paying jobs provide barely enough income for crude shelter and a little food, leaving families unable to afford the expenses of sending their children to public schools. Children as young as six years old often join their parents and relatives working in the fields. The families of La Pedrera live with limited electricity and without running water. Their homes have earthen floors, and in most cases only two rooms to shelter extended families of up to twenty people. Since 1994, the project, sponsored by Casa Xelajú, has established an educational reinforcement program as well as a child sponsorship program, from which about 60 children receive financial assistance to provide for their education and medical needs.

### Usefull links :

<http://www.casaxelaju.com/pedrera/>

Facebook page : La Pedrera School Project

### Contact(s) person:

Teresa de León

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(502) 7761 - 5955

[www.lapedreraschoolproject.com](http://www.lapedreraschoolproject.com)

Callejon 15, Diagonal 13-02,  
Zona 1, Quetzaltenango



### Activities for the volunteer

The EVS will take place in two different places : In the morning in the Spanish School and in the afternoon in La Pedrera NGO. The volunteering activities consist of :

- Afterschool activities from 15.00 to 17.30
- Informatic basic classroom for children (6 to 12 years of age)
- To Teach Math, English, lecture
- Recreative activities (educational games, teach English song )
- To Prepare the material for the lessons
- To support the activities in the Spanish School during the morning
- To up-to-date the La Pedrera website with EVS information and personal expérience
- To give visibility to the project with articles and photos publish on local newspaper
- To create a video about the EVS activités

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**Language** : Is important that the volunteer speak basic Spanish language in order to communicate with children

Approximate timetable of week activities :

Activities Timetable	Mon	Tue	Wen	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>Morning</b> 09:00 - 13:00	Activities in the Spanish School  Preparation of the weekly material	Activities in the Spanish School  Preparation of recreative activities	Activities in the Spanish School  -Visibility of the EVS project	Activities in the Spanish School  Visibility of the EVS project	Activities in the Spanish School  - Preparation of recreative activities	FREE TIME	FREE TIME
<b>Afternoon</b> 15:00 - 17:30	Afterschool Activities with children  Helping children with homework  Recreative activities	Afterschool Activities with children  Computer lessons	Afterschool Activities with children  Helping children with homework  Recreative activities	Afterschool Activities with children  Helping children with homework  Recreative activities	Afterschool Activities with children  Computer lessons	FREE TIME	FREE TIME



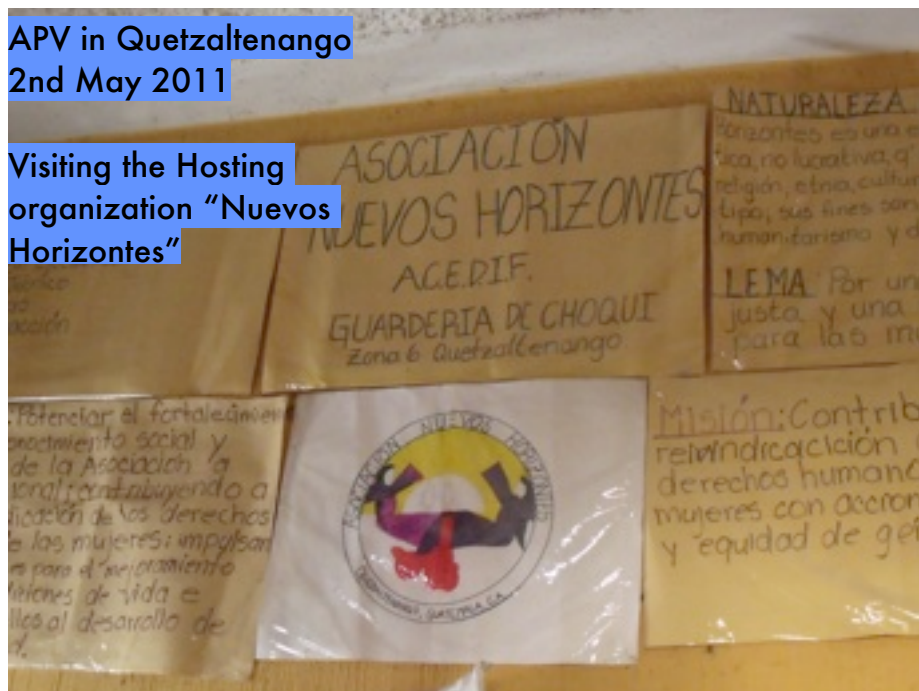
## Asociacion Nuevos Horizontes

As their website indicates, Nuevos Horizontes offer support and services to women and their children in situations of personal difficulty and social risk. We have the only shelter in Guatemala for abused women and their children, and offer various other programs focused on the health and overall personal development of Guatemalan women and children. As the name suggests, our overall goal is to bring new and brighter horizons to the lives of women, children, families and communities in Guatemala. AHNH's facilities and programmes include an administrative office, a shelter and day care centre, legal and medical services and a community outreach education programme. They offer support services, and temporary shelter to women and children survivors of domestic violence and to single mothers with extremely limited financial resources.

**Contact Person(s) :** Haylee Fuller and Hannah Ahern (Volunteer Coordinators)  
**Phone Number(s) :** Hannah 4019 0005 /Haylee's 5580 5632.

APV in Quetzaltenango  
2nd May 2011

Visiting the Hosting organization "Nuevos Horizontes"



**Activities for volunteers :** Nuevos Horizontes seeks volunteers to devise and organise fun, educational and creative activities for the children who live in the shelter as well as after school activities for those who attend school during the day. Volunteers can also help organise excursions for the children, many of whom have few opportunities to leave the shelter. Volunteers with special skills or areas of interest like music, art, or other group activities are welcome to design set programmes or classes to teach groups of children. The vast majority of the work with Nuevos Horizontes is with the children, but people with special skills and training - psychology, social work, literacy education, etc. - are welcome to make a proposal to the director to work with the women of the shelter.

Help is also needed with fundraising events, publicity and grant applications.

- Volunteer can work in the day care or in the shelter (it is possible to make a balance of volunteering activities in both of them)
- Volunteer can prepare their own activities - music, handcrafts, dance, science etc.
- Volunteer will help children with their homeworks
- Volunteer will help with organising different excursions for the children (every second week)

It is possible to pair volunteer with another experienced volunteer/worker so he/she can get used to the work, groups of children and Spanish language.

Week schedule is very flexible and depends on current needs in the day care and shelter. Every Monday afternoon (5 PM) there is a volunteers meeting (at Cafeteria El Cuartito, 13 Av. 7-09, Zona 1, Xela.), where the plan for next week is discussed. Volunteer may have lunch in the day care centre/shelter

**Language: Spanish Level Required :** Basic (it is also possible to have very low knowledge of Spanish language and to work in a pair with the volunteer with another worker).

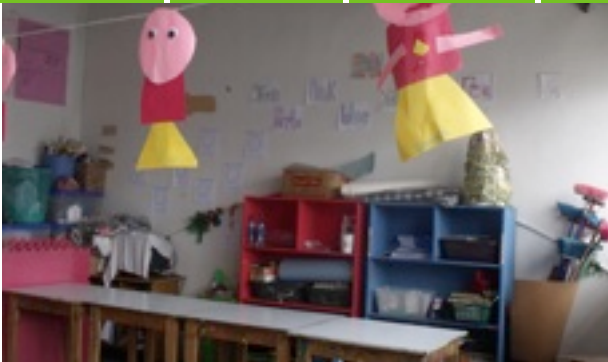
Approximate timetable of week activities :

Activities Timetable	Mon	Tue	Wen	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning 08:00 - 12:00	Preparation of activities for the week	Day care centre	Shelter	Day care centre	Shelter	FREE TIME	FREE TIME
Afternoon 13:00 - 17:00	Afterschool Activities with children  Helping children with homework  Meeting with volunteers	Afterschool Activities with children  Activities - handcrsfts, music, dance	Afterschool Activities with children  Helping children with homework	Afterschool Activities with children  Activities - handcrsfts, music, dance	Afterschool Activities with children  Extra activities	FREE TIME	FREE TIME



Approximate timetable of week activities :

Activities Timetable	Mon	Tue	Wen	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning 08:00 - 12:00	La Guarderia / Pre-school activities	Activities in Kinder	Activities in Kinder	Pre-school activities	Pre-school activities	FREE TIME	FREE TIME
Afternoon 13:30 - 16:30	Afterschool Activities with children  Football Handcrafts	Afterschool Activities with children  Ballet	Afterschool Activities with children  Swimming	Afterschool Activities with children  Ballet	Afterschool Activities with children  Bingo Free time activities	FREE TIME	FREE TIME



## Caras Alegres

Caras Alegres is a non-profit organization that serves children who are living their lives in extreme poverty. Its vision is to combat the negative effects of poverty and provide the children with a positive outlook on the future. Its operations are here in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, but is based in the Netherlands.

They offer four different very structured programme: an after school programme (ages 6-13), a preschool (4-5), a kindergarten (2.5-3.5), and a daycare (6 months to 2). Each of these programmes aims to serve the children recreationally, nutritionally, and educationally. In total, the programme serves roughly 120 children.

The programme serves many of the children that attend EDELAC, the Escuela de la Calle.

**Categories :** Women, Youth / Children

**Location :** Quetzaltenango

**Founded :** 2004

**Website:**[www.carasalegres.org](http://www.carasalegres.org)

**Contact Person(s) :** Andrea de Leon

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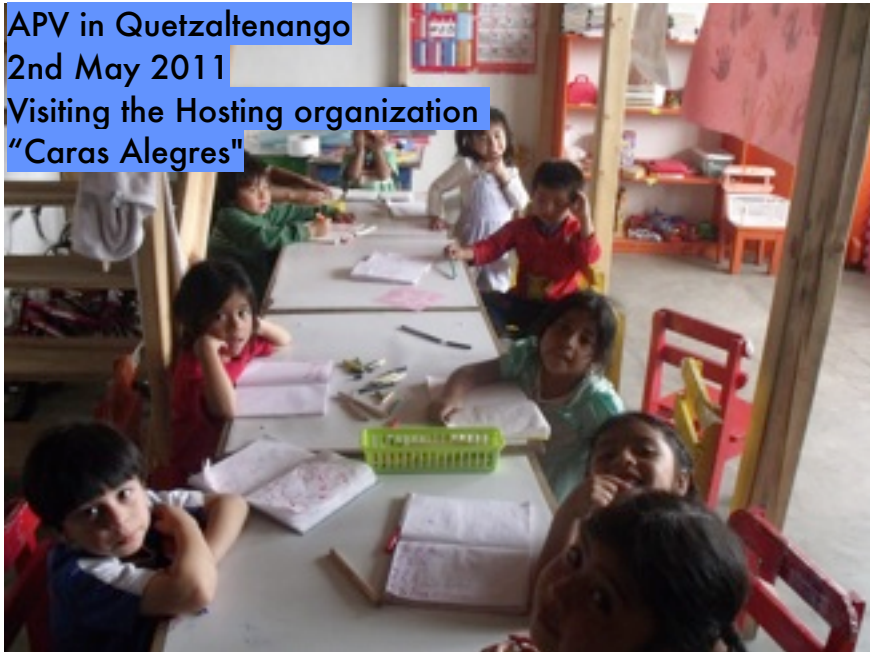
[andreinchis@gmail.com](mailto:andreinchis@gmail.com)

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APV in Quetzaltenango

2nd May 2011

Visiting the Hosting organization  
"Caras Alegres"



**Activities for volunteers:** Volunteers who are prepared to be open with the children, and interact and play with them throughout the day are needed for the variety of different programmes.

1) CARAS ALEGRES - 1.30pm to 4.30pm, this programme has 70-80 children daily. Volunteers are needed to:

- help with or teach the daily planned activity (soccer, ballet, swimming, karate, or English, depending on the day). Right now they are in need of an English and swimming teacher.
- help with, lead, or participate with children during recreation and arts and crafts time.
- help administer and supervise snack time.
- Volunteers with specific skills like carpentry, music, dance, etc., are welcome to contribute their skills and create their own activity.

2) LA GUARDERIA - 8am to 5pm, this programme has 20 children ages 6 months to 2 years. Volunteers help supervise and interact with children during the meals (breakfast, lunch and snacks), recreational times, and nap time.

3) KINDER - 8am to noon, this children has 20 children ages 2.5 to 3.5 years. Volunteers help supervise and interact with children participating in all the activities: painting, recreation, snacks, and games.

4) PAVULO (Preschool)- 8am to noon, this children has 20 children ages 4 to 5 years. Same as the kindergarten, volunteers help supervise and interact with children participating in all the activities: painting, recreation, snacks, and games. They are interested in having a volunteer to begin an English education programme as well.

Volunteer may help in different programmes. It is important that volunteer arrive to the place at 8 AM to start with activities.

Volunteer should bring his/her swimsuit because there are swimming lessons for the children.

It is possible to have lunch on the place, depends on preferences of volunteer (his/her own lunch packet).

In Caras Alegres, most of the staff wear uniform - T-shirt (black, orange and grey). The price is 100 Q per T-shirt. Wearing these T-shirts is not obligatory, however recommended.

**Language:** Basic Spanish level is required

## Trama Textiles

TRAMA Textiles, the Association of Women for Artisan Development in Backstrap Loom Weaving, was founded as a way for women to earn fair wages and build new lives for their families. The association is made of 17 different production groups located throughout the highlands of Guatemala. The association's office and store are located in the city of Quetzaltenango (Xela). From this office the textiles produced by the women within the association are sold, volunteers provide administrative and marketing assistance, and the weaving school operates.

### Contact(s) Person

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APV in Quetzaltenango

2nd May 2011

Visiting the Hosting organization  
"Trama Textiles"



**Activities for volunteers:** There are many different projects and activities, in which the volunteer can participate

- Organize benefit parties- Past benefit parties have included a pancake dinner, sangria night, circus show, and holiday parties, with cover and a portion of a drink special that goes toward TRAMA. Volunteers are encouraged to be creative with the promotion and execution of the event.
- Local publicity- TRAMA targets a foreign customer base, and volunteers are needed to put posters and handouts in cafes, bars, hotels, language schools, and other businesses around the city. Volunteers can also contact Spanish schools directly to invite them to bring their groups for a weaving demonstration.
- Store management and upkeep- Volunteers in the store keep the products organized, make sure that product labels are accurate and visible, answer any questions customers may have, and demonstrate friendly customer service at all times.
- General organization- TRAMA is an organization that wears many hats: weaving school, store, wholesaler, education center, and more. Volunteers are always needed to organize the office, using creativity with the limited space.
- Increase wholesale client base- TRAMA is interested in growing internationally through wholesale to stores and outlets throughout the world. We currently work with outlets in Sweden and the United States, but are always looking to expand. We are interested in having volunteers reach out to merchants, such as fair trade stores, coffee shops, and online vendors, that would be interested in purchasing TRAMA products.
- Increase international awareness- We are looking for people with strong writing skills to put together articles that can be submitted to special interest groups, such as weaving clubs, fair trade or international justice publications, or women's interest groups. TRAMA is also interested in increasing exposure among travel resources. We are currently listed in Lonely Planet, but there are many other travel books and websites that would give TRAMA great exposure.

- Web development- TRAMA is looking for an experienced web designer to help us upgrade our website. We are particularly interested in upgrading our non-English pages, adding more photos, updating the page layout, and creating an online store. We ask that volunteers interested in web development submit samples of past websites they have worked on.
- Newsletter- TRAMA is interested in setting up a newsletter template that will allow us to send out a more regular publication to clients, past volunteers, and other friends of TRAMA. Volunteers with graphic design or external communication experience would be great for this project.
- Postcard project- TRAMA is interested in printing and selling postcards that show the beauty of back-strap weaving and the women who weave. We are looking for volunteers who can talk with local print shops about making moderately-priced, high-quality postcards here in Xela.
- Map project- visitors to TRAMA are always interested in seeing where the cooperatives of TRAMA are located throughout western Guatemala. We would like an artistic volunteer to create a large map of Guatemala that shows where the women work.
- Search engine enhancement- we are looking to boost our online profile by forming the content on our website to increase search engine hits. Volunteers with online marketing experience are needed to help us increase search engine exposure.
- Upgrade promotional material- TRAMA is interested in creative ways to update our promotional material to attract more customers for the store and students for the weaving school. Volunteers with graphic design experience are needed to help us with this project.
- Flyer instruction maps - TRAMA needs to upgrade its map routes for flyer distribution. We are looking to improve our instructions and mapping to aid our volunteers in the flyering process.

The week schedule of activities for volunteer is very flexible. Trama shop and office are in 10 minutes walking distance of the place of accomodation.

Volunteers have the chance to participate in lessons of Trama's weaving school and learn from women who have spent years mastering the art of backstrap weaving. You'll learn about the history of weaving, how to select the best materials, how to make a garment, and how to appreciate the culture of textiles

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**Spanish Level Required : Basic**



APV in Quetzaltenango  
2nd May 2011  
Visiting the Alliance Française



## Alliance Française - Quetzaltenango

The Alliance Française is a private institute, which diffuses French courses and French culture all over the world. The representatives of the sending organisations and the local coordinator, had a meeting in "Alliance Française" to present our EVS project in Quetzaltenango. They were interesting in the concept and we could imagine a future cooperation. We were already

thinking about some activities the volunteers could realize: exhibition, intervention during the classes, video, etc. In their first week, in their on-arrival training, the volunteers will meet the people in the Alliance Française and will be invited on their events.

During the meeting we were explaining how important it could be for the European volunteers, far from their country, to meet people from the same country and share the experience in their mother tongue.

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