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#### OUR MISSION

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*Casa de Esperanza de los Niños is a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect, or the effects of the HIV virus. Casa de Esperanza provides residential, medical, and psychological services according to the need of each child.*

# Long-Term Volunteers

At the heart of the work we do at Casa de Esperanza de los Niños are the dedicated people who choose to come and spend a year or longer in full-time care of the children. We are continually seeking highly motivated, caring individuals who are flexible, committed and interested in helping us fulfill our mission: to provide hope and a home to children at risk.



*Full-time staff volunteers provide direct care for the children in placement on a daily basis.*

#### **Affiliation:**

Private non-profit corporation

#### **Type of placement:**

Volunteers' primary responsibility will be to provide direct care to children six years and younger in a home setting.

#### **Area of Service:**

Houston, Texas

#### **Length of Service:**

One year

*(Some summer and 6-month internships may be available)*

#### **Living Arrangements:**

Volunteers live on site with their fellow volunteers and may live with children during part of their service.

#### **Size of the program:**

Will accept a maximum of 15 volunteers annually.

#### **Training:**

Casa provides initial training, CPR/First Aid certification, Defensive driving for those 21 and older.



### What are the requirements?

- ✓ Be at least 18 years of age (21 and older preferred)
- ✓ Complete a physical examination
- ✓ Have high school diploma or GED (college education preferred)
- ✓ Submit a completed application, driving record, and Criminal History Check
- ✓ Be a U.S. Citizen, permanent resident, or have a valid Green Card

### What are the benefits?

- ✓ Room and partial board
- ✓ Monthly stipend
- ✓ Health insurance
- ✓ \$1,500 End of Year Bonus
- ✓ Meet other interns from all over the U.S.
- ✓ Make a tremendous impact on the lives of children in crisis



## Job Description

**Purpose:** To provide direct care to children between the ages of birth and six years, in order to fulfill Casa de Esperanza's mission of providing residential, medical, and psychological care to abused, neglected, and HIV-positive children.

**Responsibilities:** Anything and everything that needs to be done to properly and safely take care of the children in your house.

Two people will be on shift in the Assessment House at a time except at night when only one staff person is necessary. There are 6 full-time volunteers assigned to each house and a paid night person during the week. The responsibility for caring for the children in the house will fall almost entirely to the 6 volunteers of whom one or two will be House Parents who actually live with the children. The one-year term of service will be more a way of life than a job with set hours. Although there will be a schedule of shifts for the house, it will merely be a framework around which the rest of the day is planned. We are a crisis intervention agency and there is always a crisis around the corner. Change is a constant here. When children are hospitalized or when we have an emergency intake because a child is at serious risk, everyone must pitch in to get things done.

Responsibilities will include everything that is necessary to the running of the household and the care of the children. This will include among other things: cooking, cleaning, bathing and dressing the children, doing their hair, transporting children to appointments, accompanying children to the pediatrician, to speech therapy, occupational therapy, hearing tests and any number of other specialists as needed for each child. Volunteers are also asked to maintain the house, lawn, and make sure vehicles receive proper maintenance, as well as assist with other tasks as necessary in the day to day running of the agency and its various programs. Interns will also support the other programs at Casa by providing childcare for foster parent training, and Family Based Care and Adoptive Parent's Night Out.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*-- Margaret Mead*

