

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AT UMBÚNTU SOCIAL PROJECT – COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SPACE WITH ECO-FRIENDLY PROJECT IN ALVORADA/BRAZIL

THE PROJECT

Join the Humanitarian Aid project with **ICYE Brazil**, an **ESC initiative**, embarking a journey to make a meaningful impact in Alvorada City, Brazil. **The volunteer service will last for six months at the Umbúntu Social Project**, nestled within one of the city's most impoverished districts.

At Umbúntu, we've cultivated a vibrant community hub that serves multiple purposes: From hosting workshops on unconventional edible plants processing and handicraft classes to fostering cultural exchanges through capoeira, percussion, and language teaching, this space is a beacon of learning and empowerment.



YOU WANT TO...

...**make a meaningful impact, immerse yourself in an new culture, and support community-driven initiatives?**

...**experience intercultural exchange, gain lasting experiences and get insights into Humanitarian Aid?**

...**join a dynamic team dedicated to creating positive change?**



THE VISION

The project is rooted in **promoting environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour**. With this ethos in mind, the volunteers are tasked with designing activities that align with an **eco-friendly approach**.

By incorporating elements of **environmental awareness** into our workshops, we aim to spark conversations about climate change, encourage critical discourse on environmental issues, and inspire action at the grassroots level. Together, we'll brainstorm and implement greener alternatives, fostering a collective commitment to sustainability.

Umbuntu is one of ICYE Brasil social projects: it is situated in one of the neighborhoods of Alvorada, in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and it is the local partner involved in the Humanitarian Aid Project. Umbuntu started out as a project of urban farming and agroforestry, directed at ensuring food security among the local population and dedicated to sustainable processes and practices.

The main part of the project is a large agroforestry of fruits and vegetables, which has supplied tons of organic food to over 70 families through a scheme of community participation. After being harvested, the produce either gets distributed among the participants, or directly cooked to provide meals for everyone. The community kitchen, as well as all the other infrastructure, have been constructed through a mixture of waste treatment, bioconstruction and low-cost energy solutions.

Within only a few years, Umbuntu has developed into a very important part of daily life for the members of the local community, especially for the children and young mothers who suffer various forms of deprivation from living in extreme poverty.

ICYE BRASIL

The **host organization ICYE Brasil – Associação Brasileira de Intercambio Cultural** is a non-profit, multicultural and non-governmental youth organisation based in Porto Alegre, southern Brazil.

Its mission is to enhance peace and understanding between different cultures and nations through the promotion of youth exchange activities. The organisation is **part of the ICYE Federation (International Cultural Youth Exchange)** and works with local and international volunteers on a range of informal education and activity programmes, including international training, preparation of voluntary host families, intercultural learning activities for disadvantaged communities, and the promotion of voluntary work.



ICJA

The **coordinating organization ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit** is dedicated to fostering intercultural understanding and global solidarity through various meaningful international volunteer programs. For more than 70 years, ICJA has offered young people opportunities to explore new cultures, engage in community-based work, and grow through hands-on learning experiences, reflection and a commitment to social justice.

As the coordinating organisation for the Humanitarian Aid Volunteering Service in Brazil, ICJA accompanies volunteers throughout every stage of their journey: ICJA provides pre-departure preparation, continuous guidance during the placement, and close collaboration with Brazilian partner organisations who implement impactful humanitarian and social projects.



REQUIREMENTS

- You are between 18 and 35 years old
- You live in an EU Member State or an associated non-EU country
- You are available for the full six-month period
- You have completed the face-to-face training before starting the voluntary service.
- You are motivated to contribute to our local project in Brazil and to work with economically disadvantaged communities
- You enjoy working with children and the local youth
- You have an interest in urban gardening, agroforestry, and bioconstruction
- You show initiative and resourcefulness, actively looking for ways to support and enrich the project
- Spanish or Portuguese skills are helpful but not required



← ecological building with clay and wood →



work the banana tree to obtain fiber that can be used as natural hair



planting banana trees, zucchini and cabbage



organizing the food donation for the local community

EXEMPLARY TASKS

- participating in farming
- permaculture gardening
- ecological building or construction
- organizing food donation

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Travel to and from the project, accommodation, meals for the duration of the project
- monthly pocket money
- Additional insurance
- Preparation and support before, during, and after the volunteer service
- Support services, for example for language courses
- In the case of special needs (e.g. disability), associated costs may also be covered



IMPRESSIONS FROM VOLUNTEERS

“Within the project, I actively take part in plant growing, farming, permaculture gardening, construction work and different manual activities. Thanks to these activities, I do not only learn theory about environmentally friendly and sustainable practices, but I also learn by doing: Touching the soil, producing things together and seeing the results of my work gives me a strong feeling of satisfaction. I believe these experiences are a very good foundation for what I want to do in the future in sustainability and community work.”

“One of the most important parts for me is working directly with children and young people. In the community, children and young people are a natural part of daily life. This helps me understand the social life, relationships and culture in Brazil better. Because I am active in the field and not only an observer, I feel that I know Brazilian culture more deeply and I feel like a part of this community.”

“From Capoeira class, Forró class, Maracatu class, and experiencing first-hand the energy and vitality of this project: From the very first day, we felt welcomed by the warmth and openness of the amazing people that make Brazil.”



“I go to a language course three times a week. Thanks to the language course, I try to improve my Portuguese and build stronger connections with people in daily life.”

“The people in the community are very open, sharing and supportive. I rarely feel like a stranger here. Most of the time, I feel welcomed as a part of the community. This safe and friendly environment increases my motivation for volunteering every day.”

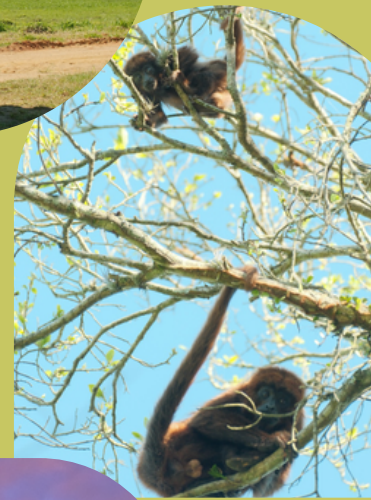




Memories



**APPLY NOW AND
BECOME A
VOLUNTEER AT
UMBUNTU SOCIAL
PROJECT**



QUESTIONS?

Contact us at esc@icja.de or visit our website at www.icja.de

