

# Service-Learning, Internships & Volunteerism

**Mission:** Connect2Bolivia empowers individuals to work hands-on with the multi-cultural communities of Bolivia through Volunteerism, Internships, Student-Teaching, Service-Learning and a global classroom setting. This allows for a unique, firsthand experience with the politically diverse and ever changing world of Bolivia.



**Vision:** To establish a rewarding educational experience for students from a wide variety of cultural, religious, ethnic, and racial backgrounds in hopes of achieving long-lasting global relationships.

**About Us:** Located in Cochabamba, Bolivia, Connect2Bolivia acts as a liaison between the Bolivian people and outside students from across the globe. In an effort to achieve lasting intercultural relationships through this study abroad program development, we offer a wide variety of services including but not limited to housing, transportation, excursions, private classrooms, volunteerism, internships, student teaching placements, classes with local Bolivian professors, and Service-Learning (Social Entrepreneurship). We are seeking student interest in Connect2Bolivia programs as well as faculty led programs. **We welcome students, educators, and professionals alike who seek a unique, cultural experience filled with adventure and learning.**

## Service-Learning, Internships & Volunteerism

**Service-Learning:** Through Connect2Bolivia's established relationships with local organizations, students will have the opportunity to complete a Service-Learning project. Our goal is to create a long-term collaboration with Bolivian community organizations to create meaningful and sustainable projects. This is a course-based educational experience. If you would like more information on our current projects, please e-mail us!

**Internships:** Our goal is to help business owners in Bolivia expand their networking within Bolivia and abroad. We enable business owners to connect with students in order to allow both parties to share ideas, to improve business opportunities, and to grow by creating a long-term relationship.

Placement of individual is based on their studies (majors) and interests as well as level of Spanish fluency. We do offer Spanish speaking and non-Spanish speaking internships.

**Volunteerism:** Connect2Bolivia has established relationships with local volunteer centers in the Cochabamba area. Our goal is to help students become involved in the Bolivian community and volunteer their time to improve the lives of the Bolivian people. Volunteering is a wonderful way for individuals to develop public scholarship.

**Student Teaching:** Connect2Bolivia also offers student teaching programs through United States Accredited and Bolivian Accredited Pre-K, Primary and Secondary Schools. Our schools offer and are approved through AdvancEd, NACAC, CollegeBoardSAT, and All Time Best (ATB) as well as are Accredited *International Baccalaureate (IB)* or are in the process of official approval.

**El Centro de Nutrición Infantil Albina R. de Patiño** (Huarakhasa) was founded in 2002. It is a private medical recovery and rehabilitation center for children who suffer from moderate to severe malnourishment. Patients remain hospitalized until they achieve full nutritional status recovery. There is also a day stay for patients with mild to moderate malnutrition.

Their mission is to improve the health of the Bolivian children and youth population through comprehensive care by malnutrition tracking, prevention training for families, new research methodologies and nutritional recovery strategies.



Their objective is to decrease infant morbidity and mortality from malnutrition and related causes through rehabilitation and to empower children and parents with the knowledge and skills necessary for safe food handling and nutritional awareness.

Students' responsibilities are to offer a helping hand in the children's rehabilitation through nurturing them, caring for their needs, playing with them, and instructing family members on nutritional strategies for improving and maintaining overall physical health.

For more information please visit: <http://pediatria.fundacionpatino.org/centros-de-salud/centro-de-nutricion-infantil-cochabamba/centro-de-nutricion-infantil/>

**Private & Public Hospitals:** There are a number of private hospitals located in Cochabamba as well as the main public hospital. Individuals will be able to compare Bolivia's private and public health care systems along with analyzing the differences within their own country and the world. One of the places students may choose to visit is the Children's Hospital for Burned Victims. Many of these children come from low income, poverty stricken families. For example, one child, age three, suffers from severe third degree burns. Her mother arrived home one night intoxicated and poured boiling water over her child. The mother escaped after the abuse occurred. Soon after, the neighbors found the child, they called the police, and the child was immediately admitted to the hospital. She is slowly recovering. This is just one of the many stories of these burn victims. Although *not all* are exposed to such abuse and their burns are accidental, of these children are often then abandoned and/or orphaned.



Hospitals are constantly seeking help from others. The students will have a number of responsibilities. They may be asked to help feed individuals during breakfast, lunch, snack, and dinner. Often due to their age and/or condition, patients cannot feed themselves. The students will also care for the patients by creating recreational games and simply being the positive figure they need in their lives. Moreover, they will be able to help with the patients' recovery by assisting in their physical therapy such as recovering simple body movements. For instance, the students may be asked to walk up and down the hallways with a child who is recovering from leg burns.

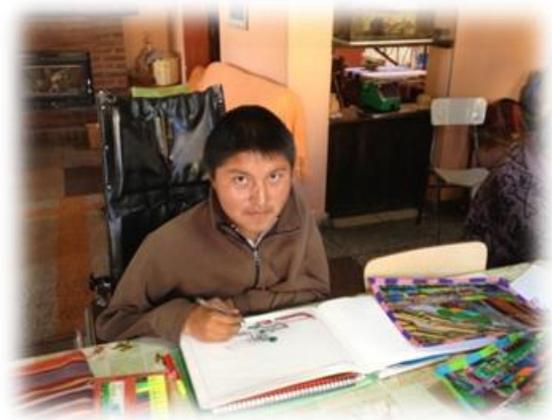
**Hogars-Orphanages:** Unlike other countries using a foster-care system, Bolivia has orphanages. There are several orphanages located in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Connect2Bolivia works mainly with privately funded orphanages.

These orphanages host a number of different types of children. There are orphanages that work primarily with younger age groups (infant to age 5) and young adolescences (6 to 12 years) to young adult (13 to 17 years). The majority of these children have been abandoned by their parents. Often these children are found by police in public restrooms, in garbage bins, or at bus stations. Some also suffer from mental or physical abuse. All homes work 24 hours day, 365 days a year.



There is a need for more personal care, educators, and overall help. These infants, toddlers, and young children need to be nurtured to be able to grow and mature. If individuals are seeking additional Public Health programs, please inform Connect2Bolivia and we will help connect them to other facilities. Orphanages are constantly looking for individuals interested in public health, social work, psychology, rehabilitation, and a passion for making a difference in young lives.

**Danielo Gotti Albani** came to Cochabamba, Bolivia over twenty-five years ago. He is a native to Italy and opened a house called “**Casa Familiar.**” It is an orphanage for individuals in their early teens to adulthood who have a mental or physical disability. Often in Bolivia, people who have disabilities are abandoned because others see them as too different. For those who have such challenges as Autism and Down Syndrome, Danielo has created a safe sanctuary. The center is a home and acts as a school, which educates these individuals and focuses on developing their strengths. This allows for all to have the opportunity for self-stability in the future. Danielo takes these individuals into his orphanage and cares for them. It is opened 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. They offer individuals a home, food, education, and a chance for a better tomorrow.



Students’ duties may include helping to care for individuals and acting as mentors. They may be asked to simply give attention to individuals by playing sports, coloring, reading, and encouraging them to live a more fulfilling life. Also, there is a need to help in day-to-day tasks such as food preparation and overall tidy work. Rehabilitation and Sign Language are also needed!

**Centro Educativo y Recreativo Fundacion Casari** was founded by **Massimo Casari**. He is a native to Malian, Italy. He came to Bolivia as a volunteer in the 1980s. He decided that the children in Cochabamba, Bolivia needed more help. So, he opened his own center which allows children of all ages to come and receive extra educational help. Many Bolivian children are forced to work for their parents at a young age, selling food on the streets, cleaning houses, etc. Often they are neglected and do not receive a well-balanced education. The center enables children to go to school, and then to receive extra help such as tutoring after school hours. This allows students to receive better grades and more opportunities for the future. The center also gives students breakfast, lunch, and dinner to make sure they are being well-nurtured.

The foundation is involved in “Intercampus” from Malian, Italy. Inter Malian is the internationally famous soccer team. They created “Intercampus,” which is an organization that involves third world countries in an International World Cup soccer game in Italy. They supply absolutely everything such as visas, daily meals, medical care, lodging, etc. Also, every year, professional soccer players and coaches from Inter Malian go to Bolivia to play with the children in Fundacion Casari to teach them new soccer moves.



Lastly, Fundacion Casari transports children from the penitentiary every weekend to play intramural sports at the center. In Bolivia, if a parent goes to jail and there is no one left to care for their children, then both parent and child go to jail together. There are no social facilities that take in these children. These youth are only allowed to leave the penitentiary to go to school. The Fundacion Casari transports these children to the center and allows them to play games, be educated, and have a good homemade meal. For more information please visit: [www.comitatocasari.org](http://www.comitatocasari.org)

The organization is seeking help in educating children in English, Mathematics, Mannerism, Nutrition, Hygiene, Sciences, etc. Individuals will tutor daily and help students with their homework and will act as a mentor to guide students on their future educational journey. Individuals may even enjoy a game of soccer while educating them in sportsmanship. Often, these children are not well feed at home. Therefore, the center offers a daily nutritious meal for the children at the center. One may be asked to help in meal preparation and clean up.

**Ciudadania** is a non-profit, private civil association founded in 2004 by a group of professionals seeking to improve Bolivian rights.

The organizational values are based on solidarity, tolerance, pluralism, and civility. They work in coordination with public action committees, civil society organizations, private entities, and state institutions. Their goal is “dedicated to the production of socially relevant knowledge, dialogue and public action to facilitate, promote and influence



social processes aimed at improving the quality of life of Bolivians who suffer some form of exclusion, through the exercise of citizenship” ([www.ciudadaniabolivia.org](http://www.ciudadaniabolivia.org)).

The NGO is seeking students majoring in a number of different fields such as **Political Science, Communication, Economics, Psychology, Latin American Studies, Sociology, Education, Agriculture or Environmental Studies, International Studies, Law, and Women’s Studies**. Based on the individuals’ Spanish level, students may be asked to do a variety of tasks. For example, the NGO usually has four team projects working at a time. These “Productive Development Projects” are designed to help Bolivian communities and/or families to develop and improve their living situations. The team adventures into field research to understand the need of the community. They offer economic assistance by giving grants to these communities for further development in farming, infrastructure, and microfinances. The NGO works alongside the local governments on these grants. Individuals may be asked to be a part of these teams or shadow them. They may help in grant writing and analytical economic research in communities. Field research is needed in order to establish relationships with the Bolivian locals, allowing for intercultural communication and an understanding for cultural sensitivity.

The NGO also offers grants to empower women in domestic rights. Individuals may be asked to help work with these individuals in improving their economical state by mentoring and grant writing to local governments/international organizations. For instance, one may research existing literature on indigenous women’s’ rights in order to understand cultural development and expectations of Bolivian indigenous women in modern times. For more information on this project please visit: <http://www.lostiempos.com/actualidad/local/20160501/cochabamba-pionera-ley-economia-del-cuidado>

**Pro Site Please (Willing Web)** is a web design, development and online business consultancy. The company was launched by local Australian entrepreneur Adam Broadbent in 2011. The team has grown to provide skills and expertise in a wide range of areas at the forefront of new communications technology, constantly updating and integrating the latest and greatest tools. The regional address is located in Tamworth NSW, Australia; and an office has been established in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The founder, Adam Broadbent, states, "We understand small to medium businesses and strive to create long-term relationships with our clients in creating websites and offering online services that support and align with their ideas and business goals." They offer a virtual back office for businesses that supply or need web services. These include PPC campaigns, SMM, SEO, CRM, Google Analytics/Adwords/Tag Manager, WordPress, Mailchimp and much more. They ensure that clients are cared for by a professional team of industry experts. For more information see [willingweb.com](http://willingweb.com) & [prosite.com.au](http://prosite.com.au).



Pro Site Please (Willing Web) is seeking interns that are studying **Computer Science, Business, Marketing, Communication, and Graphic Design**. They may be asked to help launch a new website, Identify markets, and select suppliers for affiliate providers, create brand and website content, launch site and social channels, and/or schedule an ongoing strategy through social media or online advertising to drive usage patterns. Interns may receive payment for this internship based on their experience level and/or percentage offered on project success.

**Architectural Design & Industrial Engineering/Construction:**

**Hipercon SRL** is an architectural design and construction company. It was first established in 2007. Now after nearly ten years, the company has grown in its designs and construction. The company focuses on innovative designs and industrial engineering techniques. The company currently is building over 18 residential houses and a large-scale building. In Bolivia, clients often call an architect to design their house and/or buildings personally for them. For example, Juan Jose Villaroel, Head Industrial Engineer at Hipercon SRL states, "Unlike other countries, Bolivia allows for a true and revolutionary design."





Individuals placed here will have the opportunity to help design residential areas, housing, and buildings. They will have access to many advanced architectural computer programs and will be guided in the process of discovering new designs. They may visit construction sites daily and learn about the different construction techniques in Bolivia versus the United States and the Western World.

**Note:** *If additional placements and needs are identified, Connect2Bolivia will consider these on a case by case basis.*