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**NAME OF ORGANIZATION:**

Integrated Development Foundation “SINTAXIS”

**GENERAL:**

What does SINTAXIS mean?

It is the essential unit necessary for the study of Language. Of great practical application, it is the aspect of grammar which coordinates words into sentences.

**OUR ORGANIZATION:**

“SINTAXIS” , Integrated Development Organization and Spanish Language Center was founded on 26 June 2000 in Quito. It is legally constituted and on 28 August 2001 it was granted Ministerial Agreement No. 3285 by the Ecuadorian Government. This permits current and future supporters to assist communities with scarce economic resources within Ecuador, in particular by means of donations, the sharing of knowledge and experience in community development, and social support through Spanish teaching and ecotourism.

**LOCATION:**

We are based at Departamento B, 5th Floor, Building Andrade, Avenue 10 de Agosto No. 15-55 and Bolivia st. Quito.

**TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES, OUR ORGANIZATION OFFERS:**

Spanish Language courses for visitors from abroad.

1. Intensive course (25 - 30 hours)
2. Interactive course (40 - 50 hours)
3. Regular course (80 – 120 hours and more)

Accommodation options.

- In Ecuadorian families in a safe and welcoming environment.
- In hostels or hotels.
- In apartments.
- Cultural excursions.
- Dance and Ecuadorian cooking classes.
- Modern installations and equipment with:
  - Panoramic view
  - Kitchen
  - Terrace for rest and relaxation
  - Social lounge area with fireplace
  - Storage room and laundry.

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## **PRICES:**

Taking into account that we are an organization with a social purpose, our prices are genuinely low in comparison with other Spanish Schools.

It is worth mentioning that our institution makes no charge for enrolment and our prices include workbooks and all necessary teaching materials.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

- To investigate, promote and implement social, economic and infrastructural community development projects.
- To develop capacity-building projects in urban or rural sectors, according to need.
- To establish links with national and foreign organizations and institutions of social benefit.
- To offer coordination and technical assistance to the various community groups seeking to develop projects.
- To strengthen participation, solidarity and community responsibility.
- To implement plans, projects and programs of direct benefit to the community and the country.
- To tap into available funds, both national and external, which can benefit the poorest sectors of our society.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

We are responsible for training and empowering our volunteers by ensuring a level of Spanish Language that allows them to cope comfortably with their voluntary work. At the same time, our students are able to improve and deepen their learning through the practice they get by working in our social projects.

In addition, we will offer safe and secure lodging with our Ecuadorian families, who will provide a room, meals and laundry service.

Living with an Ecuadorian family enables our volunteers to immerse themselves in our daily life and to learn about our culture.

## **AREA OF VOLUNTARY WORK:**

To support children who:

- Are working
- Are orphans
- Have scarce economic resources.

## **TYPE OF WORK:**

- English teaching
- Social programs
- Working with children
- Teaching modern techniques
- Arts and culture
- Directed tasks
- Integrated development of the child.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Our organization currently has three social projects, one located in Quito's colonial centre and the other two in a rural population near Mitad del Mundo an hour's bus ride north of Quito.

All our projects involve practical and educational support to the children by helping with their homework and teaching English. This promotes a more harmonious development and a better contribution to Ecuadorian society, while at the same time improving their interpersonal skills. Supporting their integrated development by promoting good habits and personal hygiene is also important.

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## OUR VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

### 1. ORPHANAGE “PUEBLITO LA TERNURA” (Village of tenderness, affection)

**Location:** 22 Km. north of Quito (one hour by bus)

#### Why “La Ternura”?

This project rescues orphaned children, or children who have been physically or psychologically abused by their parents, so they can have a normal development. The children come from all over the country, the coast, the highlands and the eastern lowlands.

“La Ternura” village benefits from an excellent infrastructure based around two-storey houses, a Catholic training centre, extensive gardens, a basketball court and a football pitch, a chapel and a bakery.

#### Capacity:

The project has room for 80 children to live comfortably. There are currently 42 children living there, mostly girls, aged between two and eleven.

#### How do they live?

The children are placed five to a house, each house spanning the age range. They live with a “substitute mother” whose job is to care for and assist them. The “substitute mother” is normally paid and is not a blood relative of the children. She teaches them to wash their clothes, make their bed and help around the house. She also helps with school work, but for this we need extra help from the volunteers!

All the children over five go to a state school in the mornings (not all to the same school) and return home for lunch at 1 pm. This is why our volunteers at this project work during the afternoon.

#### What work do the volunteers do?

Our students contribute with:

- Support and control in the development of school work in subjects such as maths, geography, manual tasks, etc.
- English classes (optional)
- Integrated development of the child
- Personal hygiene
- Manners
- Sports
- Group field activities
- Manual tasks such as: painting, cutting, drawing, making shapes, etc.
- Other support developed on the volunteer’s initiative.

#### Hours of work:

The normal timetable is from 14:30 to 17:30, then returning to Quito. Volunteers can work 3 days a week or every day Monday to Friday if they prefer. The minimum period is preferably 2 weeks.

**Note: During school holidays it is possible to work in the mornings in sports or extracurricular activities. Holidays run from the third week in July to the end of September.**

## 2. SCHOOL PROJECT – ESCUELA FISCAL MIXTA “A.A.T”

**Location:** village of Caspigasi, 25 km. north of Quito. (1 hour 15 mins. by bus)

### **The School:**

This is a state primary school which, through lack of support and resources from the government, has to manage itself or seek the help of organizations such as ours.

There are 85 pupils from 5 to 13 years, but only 3 teachers for the whole school. This means that two classes have to share the same teacher in the same room at the same time. The school is in a very poor area and needs significant investment in its infrastructure, equipment and facilities.

### **What work do the volunteers do?**

Given that the community is poor, the parents lack the funds to pay for an English teacher for the children, which is why we need your help!

### **Volunteers help by:**

- Teaching English to all the classes
- Exam preparation (like a regular teacher)
- Preparing classes and materials
- Assisting with the full range of student needs.

### **Hours of work:**

- Volunteers will work in the mornings (flexible timetable), for 3 days a week, or more if preferred. Spanish lessons will be in the afternoons.
- It is very important that volunteers commit to this project for at least 3 months in order to ensure it meets its objectives.

### **Other options:**

Volunteers can also contribute to afternoon, evening or weekend classes for the community, such as:

- Teaching baking to the whole community (especially the mothers) in the afternoon/ evening for 3 days a week (flexible).
- Weekend courses in English for the whole community
- Evening classes in dressmaking/ tailoring for the community
- Other projects for the benefit of the community, depending on the skills and experience of the volunteer, with the aim of opening up new sources of income to improve the lives of families in the community.

## 3. PROJECT “ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND CULTURE”

Location: **Colonial Quito**

The mission of this project is to improve the living conditions of children and adolescents at risk, who have to work in the street to help maintain their families who are marginalised and in poverty.

### **Capacity:**

This project has a two-storey colonial house equipped to provide shelter for 150 children who attend at midday for lunch and then to do their homework before returning home.

What do the volunteers do?

- Education in values
- Directed school work
- Games and television to entertain the children
- Interpersonal skills through educational games and sports
- Help to prepare meals
- Manual tasks.

### **Hours of work:**

The normal timetable for volunteers is from 13:00 to 17:00, for 3 or 5 days a week. A minimum 2 weeks commitment is preferred.

### **OUR PROJECTS OFFER VOLUNTEERS:**

- Lunch
- Spanish Lessons
- Help with visa applications
- Access to tours around the country at reasonable prices

### **REQUIREMENTS OF THE VOLUNTEER:**

**Time:** We offer: flexible programs of between 2 weeks and 3 months or more.

**Daily hours of works:** 4 or 5

**Experience:** Not essential

**Age:** Over 18 years

**Academic Qualifications:** Not essential

**Languages:** Spanish and English

### **BENEFITS TO THE VOLUNTEER:**

- Learning Spanish as a second Language
- Gaining a deep understanding of Ecuadorian culture
- Obtaining a certificate for work completed
- Enriching your heart and spirit

All our voluntary work projects are suitable for men and women of any nationality.

### **THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT “SINTAXIS” AND HELPING US TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES.**

### **CONTACT US:**

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QUITO – ECUADOR

Best Regards

**Enrique and Félix.**