

## INTRODUCTION INFORMATION to an INTERNSHIP IN MEXICO



### THE MARIPOSA PROJECT

The Mariposa Project is designed specifically for the physical, cognitive, social and emotional needs of children living and the staff working in a residential facility. The aptitudes taught and the programs designed in the Mariposa Project offer building life skill development necessary for becoming a healthy and productive adult in Mexico.

Raising children is a challenging job. As adults we must always remember that we are not raising children, we are raising children to be adults. This is especially true for children who do not reside with their birth families (birth parents or birth relatives). Children residing, long term, in a residential facility come to see individuals in the lodging as their family. Change of care givers and other children within the facility can create a sense of “being different” and/or challenge the child’s sense of who they are or where their place is in the world.

### DEFINITIONS

The **lead agency** is the organization supplying the staffing. The **contracting site** is the agency for which the project is designed. **The Point of Contact (POC)** is the individual who has been assigned to be the communication and direction for the contracting site.

### PROJECT SCOPE

The geographical area of focus is in the State of Jalisco, Chapala Region of Mexico. The recommendations and programs designed will be specific to the needs of the contracting site.

### GOALS OF THE PROJECT

The primary goals of the project are:

- 1) to develop a child’s sense of belonging within the facility they live
- 2) to provide opportunities for the child to connect with their community

- 3) for each program design to have the ability to be maintained and sustained after the date of separation (DOS) of the Intern

## **ABOUT THE LEAD AGENCY**

The lead agency for the Mariposa Project is The Allstate Treatment and Training in Attachment Center (TATTAC) and is a U.S. based organization. It is owned and operated by a licensed female psychologist whose primary graduate studies are in community based mental health which stresses community communication, coordination, cooperation which equals collaboration in a system of care. The administrative work is provided by a retired school administrator. The agency holds the responsibility for the marketing, development and design of the project. TATTAC is not considered a Mexican business as all finances and support are recruited and dealt with from abroad. For more information on the lead agency go to: [www.tattac.com](http://www.tattac.com)

## **STAFF FOR THE PROJECT**

Additional personnel for the project is staffed by university Interns or “Citizens of the World” (volunteers) from across the world. The project is a non-funded program for the Interns who receive college credit. In the case of a Citizen of the World, they receive the benefit of helping mankind. Interns are selected for their age appropriateness, caring for the healthy development of children and the desire to make a difference. (The supervised Interns will supplement staff, guardianship and safety of children while the youth/youths are in their care.) Weekly supervision of Interns is provided by the lead agency. The Interns will assist the children in developing and practicing skills which will support their belonging to their community. The Interns outcome of time spent at the contracting site will be to design a sustainable program for the agency during an 8-12 week period. The skill development will occur on-site and in the community. While some Interns will arrive with Spanish speaking skills others may be limited. No matter the level of their language expertise all Interns will be provided a class a week in Spanish to improve their language skills and an interpreter during the work their work week to facilitate better clarification of communications with the children and in the community. The designated time of the Mariposa Project will be from approximately the middle of May to the middle of August of each year.

## **PROGRAM DESIGN BY INTERN**

The Intern will provide a conceptual proposal for the design of a program within 2 weeks of arriving at the contracting site. The Intern may use an existing program

and build upon it and/or develop a needed program for the site. All program designs will support a child’s ability to develop trust and belonging to a community. Considerations can be located in the [PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT](#) document at the TATTAC website. An outline will be presented to the POC for final judgment of the program appropriateness. At the completion of the internship or date of separation (DOS) the Interns will be expected to provide a thorough written description of how the program will be continued, maintained and sustained within the contracting site.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR LIFE SKILL BUILDING OUTCOMES**

The below are a sampling of suggestions. The suggestions below are provided to instill considerations of where the contracting site would like their vision for the organization to move. Each contracting site may design the life skill building outcomes to meet the needs of their organization.

**Children under the age of 5**

Children can be trained in significance care for self and family members. They will discover the joy in developing healthy self-care and friendships. The skills will help them be better accepted as they move into society as well as develop abilities for developing healthy, intimate relationships.

Physical Health & Well-Being:	Food:	Home Care:	Social/Emotional	Basic caring of pets:
Tooth Care - Brushing and flossing	Manners at the table	Making a bed	Playing with others	approaching an animal
Bathing specific to male and female care	Food choices	Changing sheets	Sharing with others	Allowing animals to get-to-know you
Ear Care	Preparing the table for others	Sorting Clothes	Meeting and greeting others	Acceptable play with animals
General health care	Preparing simple food safely for others	Folding Clothes	Working with adults; communication and more	
Good touch/bad touch			Safety issues for self and others	
Exercise			Helping others	
Life Long Hobbies				
Rest & Relaxation				

**Children 6-12 in age may be provide or trained in the below**

All skills above will be built on. In addition service and training in the community teaches respect for all, caring for the vulnerable and providing extra “hands” for work. The skills will provide the community a view of the child as a contributing member of society, as well as, build a work ethic, self-esteem, confidence and competence for the child.

Making Gifts for others	Training in	Volunteering:
1) Elderly 2) Children	1) Animal care Basic grooming of pets Training Walking/Exercising 2) Budgeting Basic knowledge of how money is used in society Money Management Savings Assets/Liabilities Credit and other banking 3) How families work Responsibilities of family members Support and Respect Others (to be recommended)	1) Shelters 2) Veterinarians 3) Removal of trash on local streets 4) Beautifying the community; trees, plants 5) Visitations for providing entertainment to individuals unable to travel; elder care, nursing homes, individual homes, convalescence homes, facilities for children in need 6) Other (to be recommended)

**Children 13-18 may begin to volunteer and be trained in the local community**

All skills above will be built on. The project offers older children the opportunities to gain skills in the community which will translate into work skills for adulthood and for securing a working position at the age of 18. The project provides

creativity, morality and ethical dilemmas (specific to Mexico), acceptance in the community and will teach acceptance and tolerance of others.

- 1) School aides
- 2) Child care facilities
- 3) Clerks
- 4) Office Support: receptionist, secretarial
- 5) Medical Offices: doctors, dentist, veterinarians (filing, sorting, reception skills)
- 6) Automobile repair
- 7) Wood & metal working
- 8) Sales
- 9) Sewing-Textiles
10. Restaurant Support

**If you are interested in participating in the Mariposa Project please contact:**

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