**Short-Term Mission and Global Awareness Trip Application**

Guatemala April 1-9, 2017

**Organizational Mission Statement**

As Franciscan followers of Christ, we build partnerships with Catholic women and men who are inspired to live and serve in solidarity with economically poor communities across the globe – and to bring the transformative experience of mission to North American societies and churches as advocates for peace, justice, reconciliation and care of creation.

**Program Overview**

At Franciscan Mission Service, we believe the call to mission is universal. We aim to provide different pathways for as many people as possible to experience the richness of mission, and our short-term trips is one of those pathways to mission. As trip participants, you will have the opportunity to cross borders, step outside of your everyday reality, and walk with and learn from people of another culture. The trip will allow you to experience God in new and surprising ways, while also growing in deeper understanding and appreciation of the Franciscan values and approach to mission.

The Franciscan Mission Service approach and philosophy is based on the popular education model and the pastoral theological reflection of “see, reflect, and act.” This model asks us to observe, reflect, and ask questions as we witness challenging social injustices and new realities, and then to consider how this new information will impact our future behavior. The components of the trip will include: discussions with missioners and local Guatemalans, group learning, direct service, prayer, reflection and debriefing of experiences. Participants will be invited to think critically about their experiences abroad in order to better appreciate God’s creation and to better discern their responsibility as Christians in building the kingdom of God on earth.

The experience of mission also helps equip us to be bridge-builders between other cultural communities and our own communities. Participants will be exposed to the economic and social realities faced by local Guatemalans and gain a greater awareness of the structural injustices afflicting the different local communities. With this deeper understanding of social justice issues, we hope our trip participants will feel well-equipped to share their trip experiences and the social realities of Guatemala with their own communities upon returning to the U.S. Franciscan Mission Service hopes this trip will be a transformational experience for you and will inform how, in your own life, you can live out the Gospel and foster the Franciscan values of peace, justice, reconciliation, and care for creation.

**Applicant Qualifications**

* Minimum age of 14 years old (trip participants who are minors must be accompanied by a guardian)
* Eagerness to learn about another country, be immersed in a new culture and interact with Guatemalans
* Desire to gain a greater awareness of different social justice issues occurring in Guatemala
* Respect for Catholic practices and openness to learning about Franciscan values
* Ability to handle unexpected schedule changes with patience, flexibility and a positive attitude

**Trip Location:**

Trip participants will have the opportunity to serve and learn at Valley of the Angels Orphanage outside of Guatemala City, Guatemala. Valley of the Angels was founded in 1988 by the OFM Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception Province (New York), and the boarding school and orphanage serves over 200 children in poverty, ages 6 through 18. Three Franciscan Mission Service lay missioners serve at Valley of the Angels in a variety of ministries, including teaching. Trip participants will have the opportunity to serve alongside the FMS lay missioners, learn about their ministries, and have fun with the children and local community members.

**Sample Trip Activities:**

* Help teach English to students by participating in group activities and games
* Participate in a baking class with students and hear about the self-empowerment skills they are learning
* Help plan a cultural night with the children to share in an exchange of traditions and customs
* Spend a morning in the campus garden with the students as they learn about native plants
* Visit a nearby village and learn from community members about the different social realities they face
* Attend a Sunday Mass and participate in the Valley of the Angels’ tradition of live stations of the cross
* Visit the historic town of Antigua and tour various Franciscan churches and cultural sites
* Participate in daily reflections and discussions led by an FMS staff member or missioner

**Accommodations**

We will be staying in the guest accommodations on campus. Male trip participants will stay in one room and female participants will stay in another room. Each room accommodates up to 12 people. Every dorm room and common space has filtered water for you to drink. Bathrooms are shared.

**Cost**

The trip cost is currently being finalized as we discuss specific expenses with our partners in Guatemala. We will notify applicants regarding the final cost as soon as we can.

**Applicant Information**

Applications are received and reviewed on a rolling basis. The final application deadline is February 24, 2017. Please type in your answers in the “click here to enter text” sections and use as much space as needed for your responses.

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| Name:Click here to enter text. |
| Date of Birth:Click here to enter text. | Gender: Click here to enter text. | Religious Affiliation:Click here to enter text. |
| Current Address:Click here to enter text. |
| CityClick here to enter text. | State:Click here to enter text. | Zip code: Click here to enter text. |
| Phone:Click here to enter text. | Email:Click here to enter text. |
| Please describe your language abilities. (Please note that Spanish skills are not necessary to participate in the trip.)Click here to enter text. |
| How did you hear about FMS and this trip?Click here to enter text. |
| Please explain in detail why you would like to be a part of this trip and describe any past service, cross-cultural or faith experiences that are relevant to your desire to go on an FMS short-term trip to Guatemala. Click here to enter text. |
| Please list the full name and contact information (phone and email) of three references. Please also include how you know the person and the number of years you have known the person.Click here to enter text.  |

**Authorization**

I authorize Franciscan Mission Service (FMS) to retain and rely on this application, and to obtain additional information as needed for my participation on a Short-Term Mission and Global Awareness Trip. I understand that FMS will maintain all information in privacy and confidence, limiting its release only to parties involved with the facilitation and implementation of the trip.

I am aware that my participation on the FMS Short-Term Mission and Global Awareness Trip will be voluntary. I clearly understand that, if I am accepted, raising all expenses will be my responsibility. I further agree, if selected, to conduct myself in a manner befitting to the host country and FMS.

To the best of my knowledge, all information in this application is accurate and complete.

Signature of Applicant: Click here to enter text. Date: Click here to enter text.

***Please e-mail completed application to*** ***info@franciscanmissionservice.org***



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