ISA Service-Learning
Valparaíso & Viña del Mar, Chile
Teletón de Valparaíso
Placement Description

Student Profile: This placement is best for students majoring in Social Work, Physical/Occupational Therapy, Kinesiology and Health Science. This is a great placement for students looking for a fully immersive experience.

Placement: Instituto de Rehabilitación Infantil, Teletón de Valparaíso
Program type: Social Work
Language Level: Advanced
Organization Web Address: http://teleton.cl/institutos/valparaiso/

About the organization: Established in 1982, Instituto de Rehabilitación Infantil, Teletón de Valparaíso currently serves more than 4,000 children and young adults from the regions of Coquimbo and Valparaíso. Through the use of physical and occupational therapy, social integration, and group activities, this organization works to help rehabilitate patients with significant physical, mental and/or sensory impairments. The ultimate goal of Teletón de Valparaíso is to provide patients with the necessary tools needed to prevent further complications and ultimately improve their quality of life.

Potential Participant Responsibilities: This center strives to provide a positive environment in which its patients are physically rehabilitated. They offer a few areas in which participants can work; one called “Educar y Recrear” which works to provide recreational and educational activities for patients during their free time. The second area is “Acoger,” in which participants guide new patients through their first visit and acquaint them with the facility. The third area is “Invita,” which was created in order to address the enormous amount of requests for information that the organization receives. Participants will give tours of the facility, and disseminate information in order to improve awareness about disabilities and the organization in general.

Responsibilities of Past Service-Learning Participants

DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Worked in the recreation area of the waiting room playing with children who are patients or family of patients.
2. Encouraged children to engage in group games and activities
3. Worked with children on fine motor skills while coloring and drawing
4. Observed a kinesiologist after work hours
DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Worked with the Chilean volunteers in making sure we were providing a comfortable, safe, and stimulating environment for children
2. Worked with children on their sharing and fair play
3. Helped children with disabilities to play, color and draw
4. Conversed with children who were waiting for family

DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Helped to encourage fair play and sharing
2. Helped children with disabilities while coloring and drawing, aiding them with their fine motor skills
3. Distributed fliers around the neighborhood where the center is located to advertise the center’s services

DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Played with children in the waiting area
2. Encouraged fair and nice play between the kids
3. Worked with children with disabilities on their fine motor skills while coloring and drawing
4. Used puzzles to help children with their problem solving skills center’s services

Tentative hours/schedule: The ISA Service-Learning On-Site Coordinator will accompany the service-learning participant the first day to meet with their supervisor for an orientation and to complete the ISA Service-Learning Commitment Agreement which outlines the agreed upon responsibilities and schedule. Hours may be determined by the student’s academic schedule (if concurrently participating in an ISA academic program). Participants on a full-time ISA Service-Learning Program will work three days a week for 6 hours each day, totaling 18 hours weekly (for example, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am – 3pm). Be aware that you will need to take public transportation to and from your placement. The rehabilitation center is 10 minutes by bus from Valparaíso, 20 minutes from Viña del Mar, and 10 minutes walking from the ISA office.

Dress Code/Additional Information: All ISA Service-Learning participants are expected to comport themselves professionally at their placement at all times. Although common in the U.S., wearing casual clothing such as gym shorts or flip flops may not be appropriate to wear in public abroad, and is especially discouraged in a professional setting. We recommend dressing conservatively at your placement introduction and throughout your first week until you get a better sense of the organization’s standard dress code. Remember to take cues from your colleagues and dress accordingly. You are strongly encouraged to seek the opinion of the on-site staff on matters related to clothing during your on-site orientation.

Important Information: Each ISA Service-Learning experience is unique and requires personal initiative and self-motivation. Each participant’s assigned duties may change at the discretion of their on-site supervisor. By participating in this program you owe a commitment to your host organization. Non-committal behavior such as tardiness or acting irresponsibly may impact the organization’s decision to host future ISA Service-Learning participants, and participants may be
dismissed if they fail to adhere to the details outlined in the ISA Service-Learning Commitment Agreement. Key characteristics of a successful participant are flexibility and an open mind, as well as a willingness to take the initiative and learn from mistakes.