

# DREAM CENTER BOGOTA

A project that gives the local community of a marginal neighbourhood in Bogota a second chance...

Inspire-Empower-Connect and make an impact



## GENERAL INFORMATION

A non-profit foundation located in the Egipto neighborhood of Bogotá, committed with human values and exercising social service to people in vulnerable situations, such as boys, girls and adolescents, mothers who are heads of households and provide re-socialization to people who are now out of prison. The vision of the project is by 2027, children, teenagers, youth and residents of Bogotá's Barrio Egypt will live in harmony free from violence, gangs, drug addiction, delinquency, malnutrition, poverty, domestic mistreatment and abuse; through a social, spiritual and cultural transformation enjoying a culture of coexistence, tolerance, security, honest work and prosperity.

They carry out different programs in order to help to improve the quality of life of local community. Some of the most important projects are:

Empowerment from being. All projects aim to improve the vulnerable situation of children, teenagers and adults. To give them the opportunity to work on their self-confidence and self-esteem in a safe environment. This is done by means of various talleres, homework guidance, sports and games, tourism and they have also started to set up an organic garden and dream forest.

School-support center is open to children: Nutrition (breakfast and balanced lunch), counseling and homework management, school reinforcement, art workshops therapy and music therapy, sports classes and a soccer school for children and adolescents.

Wood workshop "Tallandos vidas": 80% of the male population of the Egypt neighborhood are ex-convicts, who after leaving prison are unable to reintegrate into society or get a decent job. For this reason, the wood workshop "Tallando vidas" project was born, which seeks to train and

generate resources for this population in a comprehensive manner. The workshop has psychological support, training in entrepreneurship, finances and soft attitudes to achieve a reintegration into society and economic sustainability for their families and the community.

Weaving workshop “Tejiendo corazones”: This weaving workshop aims to improve the quality of life of adolescents, mothers who are heads of households and elderly women who live in vulnerable conditions by teaching ancestral weavings, looms, sewing, as well as sessions of emotional healing and restoration of their lives.



Bogota



MINIMUM 2 WEEKS



SOCIAL PROJECT



1°TIME VOLUNTEER



BASIC SPANISH  
NEEDED



+18 YEARS OLD

### What is included?

- Project donation
- Meet & greet with volunteer coordinator
- 24/7 local emergency contact
- Administration fee
- Arrival transfer from the international airport
- Accommodation in dorms at centrally located hostel with American breakfast
- Lunch at the foundation
- 01 surprise activity per week

### What is NOT included?

- Dinner
- Flights

- Medical insurance (mandatory to confirm the reservation)
- Transfer out to the international airport
- Daily transportation to the project

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

The volunteer will be able to help in many tasks such as:

- Supporting the development of the organic garden and dream forest
- Construction projects to improve the infrastructure of the houses
- Translator / Assistant for tourists visiting the project
- Play games and / or practice sports with children
- Teach English, music, art, drama or others to children
- Help children with their homework
- Support to teachers in pedagogical methodologies applied in the volunteers' countries of origin

In the foundation there is also wood workshop and a weaving workshop, so if you have any experience in any of these areas and if you have some basic knowledge of Spanish, volunteers can help there too.

## **A NORMAL DAY AS A VOLUNTEER**

On the first Monday, a representative the project will meet the volunteer at your hostel and join him on the way towards Egipto neighbourhood where the project is located (walking distance); the volunteer will learn how to get there on his own on the following days. He will have an orientation meeting where general information about the city, the culture, the community, the neighbourhood, will be provided. It is also discussed what the expectations are and what talents and passion you want to use as a volunteer to contribute to the project with the aim that your time in the project makes

an impact for the project and yourself. During the rest of the stay, working schedule will be from 8:00 am to 04:00 pm in the different activities organized by the teachers and the directors of the foundation. Bear in mind that working hours can change according to the school timetable of the children. The rest of the day, as well as the weekends, are free to enjoy the city or travel around. We can also organize Spanish lessons for you.

## WHAT TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME

Bogotá is the center of Colombia not just geographically, but culturally, economically, politically and gastronomically. Colombia's capital is situated on a high mountain plain surrounded by the green peaks of the Andes, at 8,660ft (2,640m) above sea level, is the third highest capital city in South America, after Quito in Ecuador and La Paz in Bolivia, and is dominated by the towering Monserrate mountain that rises up from its center. The mountain can be reached by cable car, offering visitors expansive panoramas out over the city.

Bolivar Square (Plaza de Bolivar) was marked out as the central square by Bogota's founders and is at the heart of the city. Surrounded by Bogota's grandest buildings, the huge public square is a thoroughfare of activity. Sprawling off Bogotá's main square are the beautifully preserved colonial streets that make up La Candelaria neighborhood. As the historic center of Bogota, La Candelaria is a must see and its old colonial buildings running either side of narrow, cobblestone streets give this neighborhood a charming and village-like atmosphere. Although La Candelaria is a hotspot for travelers, La Candelaria demands extra precautions and you should only visit the neighborhood during the day with a professional guide who will make sure you don't get lost and will be able to ensure your safety.

Having walked around the historic neighborhood of La Candelaria, just north of the city of Bogota is Usaquen. Formerly a separate municipality,

Usaquen was quickly swallowed up as Bogota continued to expand. The colonial quarter of Usaquen is characterized by its gorgeous Spanish colonial architecture and with its own beautifully preserved history; Usaquen has become one of Bogota's most upscale areas. Usaquen's quaint cobblestone streets found in the colonial quarter are lined with gourmet restaurants and lively bars hidden behind exquisite colonial facades and large classical doors. The historic center of Usaquen is one of best preserved examples of colonial Colombia and has developed into one of Bogota's most charming gems.

Every Sunday and on festivals the city of Bogotá closes half of its main roads to cars, allowing individuals to cycle, walk, run or skate around the city without worrying about the traffic. Between 7am and 2pm, no cars are allowed on the closed roads, which form extensive cycle routes, allowing individuals to tour most of the city safely. The event is very popular, with a large number of people participating every Sunday. On the closed roads it's normal to find stalls selling fruits and other foods, and exercise events take place in many of the parks. Carrera 7 is one of the most popular routes, leading to the Plaza Bolivar in the south, where there are lots of stalls and street events attracting hundreds of people.

## LOCATION

Bogotá is built on a huge mountain platform, surrounded by beautiful green mountains and is home to a charming historical center. With people coming from all corners of the country, this capital city is as diverse as the entire country.

Colombia's capital is surrounded by cool Andean peaks and, to give you an impression of its size, it consists of approximately 1,000 neighborhoods, each adding a different angle to this lively metropolis. The city is located in the center of the country at 8,660ft (2,640m) above sea level.



## ACCOMMODATION

Dorms (shared room) in hostels in La Candelaria neighborhood. Private room on request.





## Services included at the accommodation

- Bunk bed and individual storage
- Movie Room
- Bar
- Library
- Restaurant
- Bed linen and towels
- Wi-Fi
- Room Cleaning Service
- Equipped kitchen to cook your own meals



## What to consider

- Project starts on Mondays. Arrival must be at least the Sunday before. If you want to arrive earlier, we can book the extra nights for you
- Spanish classes on request
- Available all year round, except during school holidays in June and December.
- Available for longer stays, please send us your request

## What to bring

- Small backpack to carry around your personal belongings
- Comfortable clothing like shirts and T-shirts
- Comfortable shoes like tennis (flip flops or sandals are not recommended)
- Rain jacket
- Sunscreen
- Cap or hat
- A fleece/ jumper for the evenings
- Long trousers (you might feel that Bogota is not cold but usually people better not to wear shorts in this city)
- Personal / prescription medicines. Do take in consideration that although there are pharmacies in town, you must bring your personal medication (to last the duration of your stay) if you need any

***Experience is not something that happens to you,  
it is what you do with what happened to you***