



**Community Advocate
Chajul, Guatemala
Post Date: December 2009**

Title: Community Advocate

Location: Chajul and Nebaj, Quiche, Guatemala

Organization: Philanthropiece Foundation, in partnership with Limitless Horizons Ixil

Start date: February 1, 2010

Sex: All are welcome

Language(s): English, Spanish

Last updated: December 11, 2009

Stipend: \$250/month + travel expenses

End date: February 2011 or later

Age: Adults (18-64)

Area of Focus: Community Development

Job Description

The Philanthropiece Foundation is seeking a motivated, skilled, experienced, diplomatic, team-oriented, thoughtful, and Spanish-speaking individual to act as a Community Advocate in Chajul, Guatemala. This person will work closely with Philanthropiece and our partner organization, Limitless Horizons Ixil (LHI). In collaboration with LHI's field staff, the Community Advocate will provide support in the following areas: direct services, relationship building, needs assessments, program evaluation, program research and development, networking, community organizing, accounting, and fundraising.

This is an incredible opportunity for the right individual to join the partnership of Philanthropiece and LHI. Philanthropiece is an operating foundation committed to working alongside local people in community development and empowerment. LHI is a small NGO with a five-year record of social service excellence and great growth potential. In this community, where 80% of the population lives in poverty, a small team of individuals can make a great impact. Are you the motivated, hard working, talented and reliable individual to join our dynamic Philanthropiece-LHI team?

The work is challenging, exhausting, exhilarating, and could be the most rewarding endeavor you have ever undertaken.

About Philanthropiece

Philanthropiece Vision

The Philanthropiece Foundation engages in broad-based community development and empowerment, building healthy and sustainable communities. Our current geographic focus is in North and Central America. The Foundation works in selected developing communities on locally defined projects that focus on education, health initiatives, quality of life, environmental issues and business and economic opportunity. Philanthropiece works side by side with local community leaders to identify needs and to develop appropriate projects that are culturally sensitive with an emphasis on sustainability. The Foundation also places a high value on collaborative work with other NGO's. Philanthropiece is a US 501(c)3 operating foundation and is not a grant making organization.

Philanthropiece Partnership with Limitless Horizons Ixil (LHI)

Philanthropiece and LHI are entering into their second year of partnership. The collaboration of these organizations is committed to focusing on effective and efficient on-the-ground work to benefit the community of Chajul. LHI's mission is to work in partnership with the indigenous Maya Ixil community of Guatemala to create opportunities for empowerment and advance sustainable community development. LHI is committed to designing and managing programs, mobilizing local and international resources, building upon and developing local leadership and expertise, and creating spaces for collaborative dialogue, learning, and working. Current programs in Chajul include: Scholarships and Tutoring Services, Student Computer Classes and Lab, Work to (L)earn (a work-study program for students and their families), Intensive Spanish, Careers, Safe Stoves Project, Artisan Program, Kiosk (appropriate technology) program, Sustainable Tourism, and a Public Library (including teacher training and reading hours).

Major responsibilities

- Programming: Support LHI staff in current programming; in collaboration with LHI and the local community, research, design, and develop new programs.
- Needs Exploration: Working closely with local staff, design and implement a Needs Exploration using Participatory Action Research and other locally-driven tools.
- Communication: Maintain open communication between the Philanthropiece and LHI field staff, directors, and board members, and the community of Chajul.
- Accounting: Detailed reporting on direct service accounts.
- Networking/ Community Organizing: Meet with local NGOs, government and key community figures and as well as correspondence with international NGOs to help build community support, network and establish partnerships. Represent Philanthropiece and LHI.
- Research: New programs, potential partners and revenue channels.
- Fundraising support: Support ongoing Philanthropiece-LHI fundraising efforts.

Qualifications

- Advanced Spanish skills: spoken and written
- Experience working in international community development and empowerment
- Excellent written communication skills in English
- Strong verbal communication skills
- Bachelor's Degree
- Flexibility: Availability to work flexible hours, travel and work in local living conditions (Can live in Nebaj, outside of Chajul)
- Strong computer skills in Word, Excel and Internet research skills
- Accounting or bookkeeping experience helpful
- Leadership and problem solving skills
- Research experience
- Goal-oriented
- Self-motivated and self-directed
- Ability to work well individually and as part of a team
- Appreciation of Ixil and Guatemalan cultures
- Patience with Ixil/ Spanish translation and cultural differences
- Dedication to Philanthropiece and LHI and passion to make "a real difference"
- Interest in working with students and families
- Ability to work diplomatically with two partnering organizations
- Willingness to commit to at least one full year of employment

Work Location: The Ixil region is isolated by beautiful mountains and has maintained its rich Ixil Mayan traditions and language. Chajul, Nebaj, and Cotzal make up the Ixil Triangle in the Department of Quiché in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. Philanthropiece and LHI serve the county of Chajul (estimated population 50,000), which consists of an urban center and outlying rural villages. Having been at the heart of the 36-year civil war, Chajul experiences post-war challenges such as trauma, land displacement, and fragmented families. Additionally, unemployment is high, large families live in one-room adobe houses with open cooking fires, opportunities for women are scarce, and family and gender-based violence are common. Eighty percent of the Chajul population lives in poverty. The community has a corn-based agricultural economy in which adults struggle to feed their families each day and the average income is \$1-3 per day. Most children are forced to leave school at a young age to help support the family household, leaving 75% of the adult population illiterate. Chajul further suffers from common preventable health concerns, such as respiratory illness, intestinal disease, tuberculosis, malnutrition, and mother and infant death during childbirth.

Housing Location: While Philanthropiece and LHI work in Chajul, the Community Advocate will live in the nearby town of Nebaj. The city of Nebaj has a population of approximately 20,000, consistent internet, restaurants, stores and amenities, and a traveler/ long term volunteer community of foreigners. The daily commute to Chajul takes roughly 40 minutes in each direction by local frequent mini-vans. There may be infrequent projects when it would be necessary to stay in the community or villages of Chajul as well as other Guatemalan cities such as Quetzaltenango, or Antigua.

Stipend: Philanthropiece is looking for a minimum of a twelve-month commitment and can provide a stipend (approximately equal to a local professional salary) of 1,875 Quetzales per month (\$250), international and in-country, transportation costs, and daily transportation costs from Nebaj to Chajul.

Start Date: Position begins in February, 2010. Training (20 hours) will take place in January, 2010.

How to apply: Applications will be reviewed immediately as they are received. Please email the following to katie@philanthropiece.org: Resume; Cover letter. If selected for an interview, references and writing sample will be requested.