



CENTRO SOCIAL MADRE MARIA ROSA



Maceió, Brazil

The Centro Social Madre Maria Rosa promotes and develops formation for self-determination and leadership among people living below the poverty line. Its aim is to be an active presence in solidarity with these people, journeying with them in the struggle to transform unjust structures and promote human dignity.



DESCRIPTION OF THE CSMMR

The Centro Social Madre Maria Rosa is open from Monday to Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00p.m. Working with women and children, the organization seeks to develop the self-esteem and earning potential of women, notably through artisanal craft workshops. It works to create bonds of solidarity and break down isolation. In conjunction, the CSMMR offers childcare for pre-school age children during the workshops and offers an entire program of activities for young people aged 10 to 14 years. Through their access to educational games, cultural and sports activities and various workshops, they learn to respect each other and the environment in a friendly, serene and safe atmosphere.



A LAND OF CONTRASTS...

Maceió is a coastal city located in the Brazilian tropics. Its beautiful beaches and temperate climate attract over a million tourists a year. The average daytime temperature is 88°F (31°C). The contrast is striking between the encompassing poverty of the whole area where the CSMMR is located (north-east section of the city) and the beautiful beaches with a modern and welcoming tourist area.



DID YOU KNOW THAT ...?

The CSMMR opened in June 2012, three years after the arrival of the SNJM Sisters in Maceió, in response to the needs of the local population. It relies on a dozen or so volunteers.

The "Children's Ministry" program is an integral part of the services offered by the CSMMR. It is designed for mothers and their children aged 0 to 6 years.

Maceió is the capital of Alagoas. It is located between Mundaú Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean. The founding of this port city dates back to the 19th century. The city's metropolitan area has a population of over 1,156,287 inhabitants.

The CSMMR, on average, supplies around thirty nutritious lunches to participants on a daily basis.



VOLUNTEER

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Volunteer will contribute by being an active presence, characterized by solidarity, among people living below the poverty line.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The CSMMR Volunteer's possible activities are:

- Take part in the educational activities with the children
- Give initiation sessions in computer training
- Participate in activities organized by the Children's Pastoral
- Participate in a workshop with adults
- Help set up and facilitate various learning activities

QUALIFICATIONS

- Adequate command of Portuguese or Spanish or the desire to perfect your ability
- Capacity to adapt to another culture
- Professional training (For example: psychology, nursing, education, social work, environment, etc.)
- Sensitivity towards people living below the poverty line
- Willing to learn from those who come to the CSMMR

SUPPORT PROVIDED

An orientation session will be scheduled at the beginning of the stay, where the philosophy, planning, organization and implementation of the main programs will be communicated. In addition, attendance at other meetings is desirable.

The Coordination Team of the CSMMR is available on an ongoing basis to answer questions and provide other assistance as needed.

COMMITMENT

Minimum Duration: 3 months
Schedule: 20 hours /week

ACCOMODATIONS

Private room in the house where the SNJM Sisters live, located in the Benedito Bentes 1 district.

It is only a five-minute walk from the CSMMR.

Easily accessible by public transport.



VOLUNTEER

TESTIMONY

I feel fulfilled being a volunteer. I like the contact with people, especially those who are the most needy. My life would not be complete without being a volunteer. I teach, but I also learn; it's an exchange. One just needs to really look at the other person.

What motivated me to be a volunteer at CSMMR is the way people are treated. Here the mothers can bring their children and someone will look after them while the mothers participate in a workshop. As a result the mothers and children develop social skills. These children come from homes where there are no tables or chairs, but at CSMMR they can sit at a table to have a snack. This is a learning space; people learn when they come here. It is a community project, a space for everyone.

I travel a good distance from my home to get to CSMMR, but for me the distance is short because I am eager to arrive. What is important is to want to do something and not to let difficulties in our way.

Maria-José Timóteo



SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Fill out and submit the SNJM Volunteer Program Application Form, with the required three references at reception@snjm.org

Once the volunteer candidacy has been approved, the applicant must:

- Provide a criminal and security check (police certificate).
- Pay the travel expenses from the current residence to the site.
- Arrange for health and travel insurance for the time of the stay at his or her own expenses.
- Obtain documentation required by the host country.
- Be aware that the volunteer must also meet specific site requirements.
- Participate in cultural training prior to departure as required by sites in Peru or Brazil.
- Have a valid passport.
- Have up-to-date vaccines for the site country.

I'M INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION

For any questions, please contact at reception@snjm.org or (450) 651-8104.

