

Volunteer Profile: Gudlaug Olafsdottir

Time of stay:

February to April 2013

Focus of work:

In the mornings I made extra assignments in subjects in which the children needed more practice as well as helping out with various kinds of gardening, painting the downstairs classroom wall and occasionally running errands such as going to the local market (great fun). In the afternoons our main assignment was helping the children with their homework and giving them the extra assignments that we had made earlier. When necessary we accompanied the children to doctor or dentist appointments or therapy. I also took part in an English project that we started up, planning and giving additional English lessons.

Professional background:

Currently studying Political Science at Uppsala University.

Working experience: Day-care teacher with two-year olds in Reykjavik.

Full time, 4 months.

Volunteer at an orphanage/ day care center/ project (Yatima Moyo kwa Moyo) in Matanana, Tanzania. 3 months.

Why I would recommend the project:

The project is not only unusually well organized and structured it also really works. As a volunteer here you really are appreciated and feel like you are contributing. The leaders of the project are always there for you and welcome new ideas. They are flexible and understanding to your situation as a short term volunteer in a new country. To help out at the project is a wonderful way to get to know the language and also the culture of Ecuador. By working at this project you are given the opportunity to see what most tourists don't; you live in this neighborhood, amongst the people of this area, an area where most Quietños never even have been. Here the volunteers are the only foreigners; we bounced the gringo bubble and get to know people outside of the tourist places/industry. Also, just the fact that we get a typical Ecuadorian "almuerzo" every day is a luxury that I'm sure most projects lack. Most importantly you really are helping by coming here and getting to know these children is an experience that I will never forget.