



# A GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING MOVEMENT

Many Cuso International volunteers still come from across Canada & the United States and travel in a 'North to South' direction. Volunteers like Doctor Ilona Hale from Kimberley, British Columbia, who volunteered in Malawi for two years. There, she collaborated with local health care professionals to find sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions to improve health care and save lives in Malawi.

But these days, many also journey 'South to South'. These are people with a range of professional skills who are posted within their own country or from one developing nation to another. They are joined by people serving from diaspora communities, and by corporate volunteers. We've even posted volunteers from developing countries to North America. We are helping to build a truly global volunteering movement.

**WHEREVER THEY ARE FROM, OUR VOLUNTEERS WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OVERSEAS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS ON LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY MANAGED PROJECTS. CUSO INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WORK ON LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

## CUSO INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

We support a range of volunteering initiatives, including:

### NORTH TO SOUTH VOLUNTEERING

Long-term 'North to South' overseas volunteering – Professional placements from seven months to two years. Our volunteers help build social infrastructure by sharing their expertise with local colleagues.

Short-term 'North to South' specialist volunteering assignments – Positions of six months and under for highly experienced professionals who provide support at senior levels.

### SOUTH TO SOUTH VOLUNTEERING

'South to South' volunteers are recruited from low and middle-income countries to work alongside local partners in other Southern countries, on either long-term or short-term placements.

### NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

Support for local organizations in developing countries that provide volunteering opportunities – helping people contribute to the development of their own communities.

### DIASPORA VOLUNTEERING

Providing opportunities for diaspora communities in North America to volunteer and contribute to development initiatives in their country of origin or heritage.

### DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic alliances with select business partners, and tri-party linkages among organizations in the developing world and like-minded groups in North America. Cuso International serves as a catalyst and facilitator of working relationships between our partners.

### SOUTH TO NORTH VOLUNTEERING

Strengthening links with North American organizations and bringing a Southern perspective to discussions of international development issues.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN NORTH AMERICA

Using the knowledge gained at the grassroots of international development by returned volunteers to raise awareness of – and action on – global issues at home.

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

In every nation where we work, energetic, skilled and creative people are working to drive their home country's development. That's why Cuso International supports 'National Volunteering' programs in many countries, to help leverage the skills of a nation's own citizens to support the development of their own communities and country.

Cuso International is the North American strategic partner of VSO, a global alliance of Voluntary Service Organizations. Around one-quarter of the volunteers serving with VSO member agencies are recruited from our bases in Southern countries. Volunteers like Kwame Jaforktuk, a Ghanaian who worked in the northern region of his country with the microcredit organization Maata-n-Tudu (Women of the North) on projects that bankrolled a better economic future for women.

## DIASPORA VOLUNTEERING

Cuso International also knows that diaspora communities in North America have a strong interest in volunteering to use their skills, networks and knowledge to support development in their countries of heritage. Volunteers like Peter Jailall, a Canadian teacher of Guyanese origin who worked on teacher training and children's literacy in remote regions of Guyana.

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Long-term strategic partnerships between Cuso International and carefully selected North American corporations such as Scotiabank, Accenture, Randstad and Deloitte Canada combine critical business skills with volunteering. Partner companies release their employees to take on an overseas volunteer placement with Cuso International. Volunteers like Coreena Rorke, a Scotiabank Manager from Vancouver, who worked as an Organizational Development Advisor with Youth Opportunities Unlimited in Kingston, Jamaica.

Regardless of where they are from, our volunteers work collaboratively with overseas partner organizations on locally and nationally managed projects. Cuso International volunteers work on long-term solutions that will have an impact for generations to come.

The volunteers themselves apply their professional skills in a different context, developing new skills and experience, forging connections with new people and communities far from home - and for a life-time.



### VOLUNTEER PROFILE: CHRIS LITTLE

Chris Little, a financial manager with Scotiabank in Toronto, is currently volunteering in Guyana as part of the development partnership between Cuso International and Scotiabank. Chris is working as a financial advisor with a community-based women's group that manufactures peanut products, and also a youth carpentry training workshop. The work is challenging, he says, because many of the workers lack basic math and accounting skills, which are necessary to help them grow their businesses.

Chris says he's had to learn more patience, to try different teaching styles.

"There are little successes every day, working with the women at the peanut factory, trying to cost out the products to see if they're going to make a profit. There are a lot of questions, and I found that they're now starting to understand, they're starting to work on their own. I challenge them, I give them homework, and when they come back, they've done it right. That always makes me feel good."

He says life is very different from the hustle and bustle of life as a banker back in Canada.

"It's a great way to see a different way of life. It's a great opportunity to get a perspective on what life is like in other parts of the world. There are other ways of doing things. Just because we live in Canada doesn't mean ours is the right way. And just to be away from work for six months doing something completely different is really refreshing. You don't feel as tired as you do back home, even though there might be more challenges in everyday life."

"I would encourage anybody to do this, that's for sure."



## ABOUT CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Cuso International is an international development organization that works through volunteers. We have 50 years of experience promoting volunteering as a tool to fight global poverty and disadvantage. By supporting people who share their skills, creativity and learning with people and communities around the world, we are contributing to a movement of volunteers for the world. Visit [www.cusointernational.org](http://www.cusointernational.org) for more information.



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