



DEDICATED TO THE
HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

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Helping abroad for 25 years
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For Your Information

Health Volunteers Overseas

Helping abroad for 25 years

For the past 25 years, Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) has worked to increase health care access in developing countries.

Through clinical training and education programs in child health, primary care, trauma and rehabilitation, surgical care, oral health, infectious disease, nursing education and burn management, HVO supports health care providers who care for needy populations in more than 25 resource-poor nations.

The Academy has supported HVO's mission for 18 years. Since the first pediatric program opened in 1993, 516 HVO assignments have been completed by pediatricians in countries on four continents. The organization's success for a quarter of a century is due largely to the dedication, commitment and hard work of the volunteers and sponsors.

HVO programs are staffed by short-term volunteers — fully licensed and trained health care professionals committed to sharing their knowledge and skills. There also are opportunities for senior residents accompanied by a consultant mentor. The average assignment is two to four weeks, but some programs offer shorter assignments.

Volunteers pay for their own travel expenses and usually a minimal fee for housing at a guest house close to the hospital.

Volunteers engage in a variety of activities, including giving presentations and lectures, facilitating hands-on demonstrations, assisting with rounds, and working in laboratories. There is a particular need for subspecialists at most sites.

Many volunteers develop relationships and return to the same site annually after experiencing HVO's lasting impact. Annual visits benefit volunteers and programs. Volunteers are able to observe slowly evolving progress. Learning often is a two-way street, with students, residents, faculty and volunteers learning about each other and differing health care systems and cultures.

HVO has pediatric programs in Bhutan, Nicaragua, St. Lucia and Uganda, and sends pediatric subspecialists in hematology, oncology and other areas to sites in Peru, Cambodia, Honduras, Ethiopia and Vietnam. All sites need pediatrician volunteers.

For more information, visit www.hvusa.org or contact Danielle Stonehirsch at d.stonehirsch@hvusa.org or 202-296-0928.

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