What is MINGA?

“Minga entails a collaborative work system that dates back to the Incas. It refers to the commitment, contract or work agreement between two or more people. The word minga also stands for meeting or reunion.”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

NUTRITION & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Learning Objectives:

CoopSaludcom is a leader in the execution of federal grants for support of early childhood development. Coopsaludcom manages programs in education, nutrition, cultural, recreational, self-management and general health within the municipalities of Chinchiná serving 1178 children at 6 child development centers that orient pedagogical strategies focused on the integral development with quality of each child. One key service is a program focused on developing mothers into community leaders to foster self-reliant locally-based mechanism by which mothers pool together to help each other. Then, these community leaders help in identifying other community members who are need of CoopSaludcom’s services such as early child & mother health education and nutritional support.

Interns will receive guidance and supervision from the Head Nutritionist as they join the nursing assistant teams in handling common responsibilities of accessing & monitoring children’s health, developing nutritional plans, and conducting health education campaign. Interns will have opportunity to spend time in classrooms working with educators as well as in the field conducting family visits.

Participant Requirements:

Educational Background: Undergraduate, graduate, or professionals in any of the following fields: Nutrition, child development, elementary education, social work, psychology, or any health or education fields.

Spanish Language Skills: (None) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Fluent)
Potential projects and day-to-day duties:

• Assist staff in educating and supporting children and their Mothers
• Tasked to compare/contrast Colombian practices vs. U.S. practices then make presentation
• Support in the review of current internal operations processes & procedures for improvement
• Support in the daily tasks and other duties assigned by supervisor

○ Sample Research Project:
  Compare average child’s diet intake during ages 0-5 between U.S. & Colombian children. Determine its long-term physical development impact. Intern will write paper and make presentation at project completion.

Service Term:

  ○ Plan Prep Time: 30 days prior to arrival date
  ○ Service Term: 30 days min required – 32 hrs/wk required
  ○ Work Schedule: 6-8 hrs/day - Mon-Fri (TBD am - TBD pm)
  ○ Service Window: January - December

Special Skills Desired:

• Interest in child development, health & nutritional education
• Strong communication skills
• Great attitude
• Proactive
• Safety Conscious
• Responsible & Mature