



Organization Name:

Casa Alitas Welcome Center

Organization Background:

Since 2014, Casa Alitas, an affiliate of Catholic Community Services, has been providing aid to migrant families in Tucson, Arizona. The majority of our guests come from South America, but we welcome folks from all over the world. They have been released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol custody on humanitarian parole and need assistance in continuing their journey to reunite with family members in the United States. Casa Alitas provides hospitality and humanitarian aid to our guests by offering food, beds, basic amenities, legal orientation, and assistance making travel arrangements.

<https://www.ccs-soaz.org/agencies-ministries/detail/alitas-aid-for-migrant-women-and-children>

Internship Project Title

a collaborative response to address migrant humanitarian needs

Project Description:

Floater Do It All: welcome busloads of migrants with masks, water, soup and fruit, escort them to assigned rooms, help to organize, sort and select clothing and toiletries, prepare and serve meals, assist transporting guests to other shelters or to terminals, fold and do laundry, general tidying and sanitizing, and possibly teach English or Art classes as pandemic allows. The work goes beyond all these things, but generally helps immigrant families with their stay at Casa Alitas on their journey to their sponsor, and helps keep the shelter clean and tidy.

As they become familiar with the services and systems of Casa Alitas, Floaters might choose to focus on one area in order to increase guest accessibility, effectiveness and efficiency.

Help Desk Advocate (requires proficient or fluent language skills): When a guest approaches you at the Help Desk for help and the help is something within the purview of what Casa Alitas does, you have become the guest's advocate and it is your job to

make sure the guest gets that help. If possible, you provide the help to the guest immediately, e.g., you help make the travel arrangements, you find the missing family member, and you get the clothing. If you can't provide the help immediately, the guest and issue remain yours until the help is provided. If you personally can't provide the help and must make a referral, e.g., to the medical team, to the Psychological Support Team, or even to Diego the director; you must follow up to make sure the guest actually received the help. The buck stops at the Help Desk.

Internship project keywords (check all that apply).

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| ☐ Health Disparities | ☐ Maternal/Infant Health |
| ☒ Public Health Preparedness | ☐ Tobacco Use |
| ☒ Collaborations with Community | ☐ Injury/Violence Prevention |
| ☐ Collaborations with University | ☒ Immunization |
| ☒ Community health service | ☐ Infectious Disease |
| ☒ Physical Activity | ☐ Oral Health |
| ☐ Substance Abuse | ☐ Evaluation |
| ☐ Mental Health | ☐ Policy Development |
| ☒ Access to care | ☐ Program Planning |
| ☐ Nutrition | ☐ Data Analysis |
| ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health | ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text. |
| ☐ Environmental Health | |

When: *When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Fall Semester
- ☐ Spring Semester
- ☐ Summer Term

☒ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: 140 W Speedway Blvd #230. Tucson AZ 85705

Address where Student will work (if different from above): 2225 E Ajo Way, Tucson AZ 85713

☐ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

Welcoming- Casa Alitas is often the first place where asylum seekers are welcomed and treated with dignity.

Hands on- Most of our work is done on the ground, working every day with new guests. Humanizing-Casa Alitas treats everyone with respect after many have been through dehumanizing experiences.

Inclusive- Casa Alitas houses the Indigenous Languages office and works towards language justice.

Trauma informed- Although we are not a long-term facility, we strive to offer psychological first aid through the psychological support team.

Level of Expertise Needed: *Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern?*

Undergraduate: The internship for undergraduates should provide an experience that allows students to incorporate classroom learning into public health practice.

Graduate: Applied experiences for graduate students should require application of advanced knowledge and skills to the solution of health problems and the production of at least two agency-based deliverables.

Both experiences prepare students for future employment.

☐ MPH

☐ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

Christy Voelkel, MEd, site lead and intern/volunteer coordinator, 10 years experience working as Community Health Worker in rural Latin America, 30 years education, mentoring

Compensation/Benefits/Professional Development

The student will serve as an unpaid volunteer, although there are opportunities for professional development such as Asylum Overview, Border Issues, including trips to other groups involved in border/migration issues such as KBI Nogales or Project Streamline, Cross-Cultural Communication and/or Indigenous People Groups, and Trauma-Informed Care

Application Contact Information

Potential interns should contact volunteers@casaalitas.org; please include a résumé and statement of purpose.