

“Individually, we are one drop.  
Together, we are an ocean.” - Ryunosuke Satoro



## Group Quest Key Components

Thank you for your interest in participating in a United Planet Group Quest! This is truly a great opportunity for you to make a difference in a community overseas, immerse in another culture, and explore a new part of the world. All United Planet Group Quests combine meaningful service work with exciting excursions and cultural activities!

United Planet (UP) believes that offering quality international volunteer programs and engaging in societal challenges through meaningful projects helps to increase cross-cultural understanding, nurtures friendships across borders, and provides much needed support to communities in need worldwide.

### Preparation to Serve

#### Pre-Departure Sessions

UP offers Pre-departure sessions via phone and the internet for all volunteers. These trainings cover topics including: cultural adjustment, community and project information, health and safety, in-country logistics, and more. In person pre-departure trainings are also possible for those in the Northeastern United States.

#### Online Portal

UP sets up a private web portal for each group, where group members and leaders can access pre-departure documents and cultural adjustment materials. Upon request, UP can also work with our in-country coordinators to develop country specific topics to help guide pre-service reflection through journal entries, discussion topics, etc.

#### Country Coordinator and Orientation

UP works closely with an in-Country Coordinator (CC) on the specifics of each group. As the CC lives in country, they know the volunteer communities and the country very well! CCs hold an orientation for the group upon arrival, and are available on the ground in country 24-7 to answer questions and help and respond to emergencies.

## Service Experience

### Flexibility

UP offers volunteers a multitude of possibilities. If there is a specific project or population volunteers are interested in working with, our CCs will work to set this up. CCs in each of UP's countries arrange all program details including housing, work projects, cultural activities, language classes, and excursions. The aim is to connect a volunteer's skills and interest with a need in a local community

UP works closely with groups to create a customized Quest experience, integrating only the elements of our Quests which groups prefer. Additional special activities can be incorporated based on the group's interests.

### Cultural Immersion

UP's Quest program is designed to immerse volunteers into a host culture. When possible, volunteers stay with host families and all Quest itineraries include time to interact and share with the families and local community. Volunteers are also offered language classes and opportunities to participate in cultural activities and excursions to various points of interest. The goal for all volunteers is for them to learn as much as they can about the local culture and community. As our programs are very flexible, we can accommodate individual group requests for alternative living arrangements or customized activities.

### Sustainability

UP CCs work directly with communities and local organizations to develop volunteer opportunities which best fit the communities' needs. Volunteers work in local schools, non-profit organizations, orphanages, healthcare facilities, etc. All of these organizations have expressed an interest in hosting a volunteer who can help address a specific need. UP only develops projects which meet a need in the community, and standards are always set by the people of the local community. Further UP sends individual volunteers to projects throughout the year, and often the work the group has done can be continued by individual volunteers in the future.