

Child Family Health International

Child Family Health International – EdyFu

Tarija, Bolivia

Doing More with Less: Healthcare in Remote Southern Bolivia

Organization Overview

Child Family Health International is a leader in global health education, facilitating international internships that meet rigorous ethical, safety, and academic standards. CFHI's socially responsible approach and reciprocal, long-term partnerships with communities, ongoing support of local healthcare infrastructure, US and local staff structures, as well as time-tested policies and procedures protect the wellbeing of both students and host communities. Our global partnerships with physicians, clinical and public/community health sites are established and reliable, and CFHI offers the expertise needed to administer global health programs to match academic needs.

Social Issue Focus & Impact

Tarija is a tranquil and picturesque city in southern Bolivia of about 200,000 people. Tarija offers universal health insurance, which can create high demand for services and strains on the system due to lack of personnel and equipment. During this program, interns will come to understand cultural and socioeconomic barriers patients face in accessing healthcare services and witness treatments for pathologies not commonly seen in North America, including parasitosis, tuberculosis, and Chagas. In addition to gaining insight into the local healthcare challenges and systems, interns will contribute to the efforts of a local educational NGO, EdyFu.

Founded in 1997, EdyFu is a Bolivian NGO that aims to promote education amongst school-aged youth from resource-poor backgrounds. The overwhelming majority of the children that use EdyFu's services are not able to attend school regularly, as they must work to support their families financially. The center provides them a secure shelter and a safe place for them to study and continue schooling. The organization runs three centers in the city of Tarija and offers various services including: after school tutoring program, free lunch program, academic scholarships, sports and recreation activities, social services and legal advice for parents and children, basic medical referral support, classes in trade jobs (gardening, electricity, or cooking), and a store selling community-made arts and crafts. The organization also runs a temporary housing facility for children who cannot stay home because of domestic violence or other extenuating circumstances. The staff focus on working with these children to address behavioral issues as well as values and self esteem.

Position Description

Interns will accompany health workers in clinic and hospital settings, and in the NGO setting will contribute to all regular and ongoing program operations and initiatives including teaching, special activities, etc.

Student Profile

Ideal candidates will have some experience in or knowledge of global health and education, especially in low-resource settings. This opportunity requires Beginner 1 Spanish: "I can speak a little and understand at times if people speak slowly and clearly."

Time Frame

9 Weeks