



Casa Girasoles Ica and Sacred Valley – Volunteer Agreement 2023

Welcome to the Casa Girasoles! Thank you for your commitment to the Casa Girasoles in the City of Ica and the Sacred Valley of Cusco. Health Bridges International, Inc. (<https://www.hbint.org>) appreciates your interest in the Casa Girasoles.

The following document provides information about Health Bridges and the general rules and standards for short-term visits or volunteers spending time at the Casa Girasoles Ica and the Sacred Valley. Should you have any questions about the operations of the homes, rules or standards expected of volunteers or anything about Health Bridges, please contact us at: Info@HBInt.org Thank you and enjoy your stay.

Our requests are as follows:

1. Health Bridges is an organization that respects all. We are open to all and invite diversity. We do not permit any discrimination of any kind with our staff, volunteers, the youth we serve or the people we build community.
2. We do not tolerate any discrimination of any kind.
3. The use of any illicit substances or smoking, vaping of any kind is strictly prohibited at the Casa Girasoles.
4. For the safety of the boys and the volunteers, no volunteer will be permitted to accompany an unchaperoned boy to any activity, area of the Casa Girasoles property, or room in any facility.
5. Health Bridges adheres to a three-person rule regarding minors. Health Bridges prohibits one adult being alone with one youth (<18 years old). A second adult must be always present.
6. Any volunteer wishing to spend more than 1 week volunteering with the Casa Girasoles programs in the City of Ica and Sacred Valley of Cusco must submit to a criminal background check. Health Bridges uses the services of a Coeus Global (<https://www.coeusglobal.com/index>) complete background checks.
7. No volunteer is permitted into the bedrooms or dormitories and/or bathrooms of the boys. Volunteer bathrooms are available.
8. Encountering poverty in Perú produces the natural desire to give generously. However, gift giving can create problems for those who receive a gift as well as for those who do not. Therefore, gift giving is strictly prohibited. Do not give gifts to individuals during your trip. Your presence and interest in the people themselves are the most important aspect of your trip. And please DO NOT give any individual gifts to the boys.
9. The Casa Girasoles homes and properties are smoke free. Please, no smoking anywhere on the property. In addition, the properties are alcohol and drug free. Please abstain from using any illicit substance or alcohol while on the property.
10. Health Bridges believes in the dignity of all humans. We do not permit discrimination based on gender, sex, religion, ethnicity, culture, or beliefs.
11. Faith, spirituality, personal beliefs, or religious practices and preference are not a criterion for participation in a visit to the Casa Girasoles. We have had Buddhists, Christians, agnostics, and atheists join us. All we ask is that you are respectful to the beliefs of those around you and that do not proselytize your faith or religion to our staff, youth, or community.
12. Health Bridges is not an evangelical organization, or a faith based non-governmental organization. We do not expect trip participants to abide by any single doctrine. We ask that everyone who participates in the HBI experience be respectful, open, and flexible.
13. Please be respectful to the facilities and property of the Casa Girasoles. Please make every attempt to leave the property in better condition. Pick up after yourself, collect garbage off the grass, and help - when and where you can. Thank you.
14. The Casa Girasoles property is a safe place. However, no one can assure things won't go missing. Take care of your personal items and keep them in a secure location. If you need help securing any personal items, talk with your team lead or a Casa Girasoles House Parent.
15. If you see something that just doesn't look right or feel right, please say something. Connect with a team lead and/or a Casa Girasoles House Parent.



16. Anyone wishing to visit the Casa Girasoles must first contact HBI. Please email Lic. Mg. Karen Falkenstein (Karen@hbint.org) with information about your intended visit and details of your travel dates.
17. We always have a need for donations, so please feel free to contact us with questions about what you can bring to help the boys! Thank you.

Who is Health Bridges International, Inc.? HBI is a nonprofit organization led by health and child welfare professionals that seeks to provide vulnerable Peruvian children and their families with opportunities toward a life built on health, hope, home, and purpose. With our Centers of Excellence (CoE) model, we work with nonprofit, government, and private organizations to standardize services and programs on a national scale to ensure that children and families living in poverty have access to the quality caregiving and medical treatment they deserve. The CoEs are community-driven, collaborative, and replicable program models focusing on self-advocacy for children and families and training for childcare providers.

Decades of Co-Creating Change in Health and Welfare with Peruvian Communities

Since 1992, HBI has been directly working with the local leaders and community members through skills training and equitable access to health and welfare services. Our shared mission is to create pathways for children and families to improve their health and well-being through quality services.

HBI's programs provide Peruvians with access to individualized welfare and medical support. We also further the training of care providers and healthcare workers so they can address diverse and constantly evolving needs in the communities they serve. Our programs led by local health professionals and social workers trained on evidence-based strategies inform our CoE model development and impact these three areas:

- **Child Welfare and Empowerment:** HBI supports formerly abandoned children who have lived through violence and abuse in unstable home environments. Through Casa Girasoles Sanos, we provide these children with safe housing, a stable home setting, and opportunities for personal, social, and educational growth.
- **Child Health and Development:** HBI addresses the socioemotional needs of families caring for children with medical conditions through the Community of Support Group. Led by psychologists, the support group meets virtually and in-person and serves as a safe space for participants to express their feelings and share experiences, information, and resources.
- **Equitable Change in Perú's Healthcare System:** HBI aims to support local health systems in Peruvian communities through the Newborn Resuscitation Training Program, which focuses on upskilling midwives on neonatal care. We also co-manage the Maria Madre Mission Clinic with our partner, Mission of Alto Cayma of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul. Through the clinic, residents of Alto Cayma, Arequipa access quality and affordable primary and specialized medical services.

Working at the intersection of public health, child welfare, and community development, HBI creates systemic transformation in healthcare and welfare so that every Peruvian child and their family have the best shot at a safe and healthy future. In collaboration with our partner communities, HBI has served over 250,000 people and trained over 7,500 service healthcare providers to date.

Learn more about Health Bridges on our website or follow us on social media at –

- **Web:** <https://www.hbint.org>
- **Blog:** <https://www.hbint.org/blog>
- **Facebook:** @hbint.org
- **Instagram:** healthbridges
- **Twitter:** @HealthBridges

HBI is committed to financial accountability. We pledge to tell our donors how all donations are being used.

Health Bridges International is an independent charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code and a registered non-governmental organization in the country of Perú.

IRS Tax ID #20-3681041 - Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Organization Registration #36015 - inscrita en la Partida Registral N° 13795912, identificada con RUC N° 20601800251