Ready to take the plunge? To apply to be a Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer, visit www.ELCA.org/YAGM and click “Apply now!” Applications for the Young Adults in Global Mission program are due Feb. 15 each year for service beginning that same August. Applications received after Feb. 15 cannot be considered.

For more information, visit www.ELCA.org/YAGM or contact us at 800-638-3522 or globalserve@elca.org.

Connect with us!
For stories, photos and blog posts from current and former Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers...

Facebook Visit our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ELCAYAGM
Twitter Follow @ELCAYAGM on Twitter

For more information:
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8765 West Higgins Road
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“The wonderful thing about serving for an entire year is that you witness the many different seasons of the place and the people you come to know — not just to experience nature’s seasons, but to be part of the human seasons as well... With the passing of these seasons I find myself touched and changed, and ever-so-grateful for having been a part of it.”
Kristy, Hungary

“I cannot help but be amazed at how central the theme of community has shaped my year and my experience here... I am awed at the impact each and every individual has had on my life as well as the impact we have had on each other. I cannot help but view the gospel now as God’s desire to restore community to health, to help us realize our connectedness.”
Tom, Argentina

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.
What is Young Adults in Global Mission?

The Young Adults in Global Mission program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) invites young adults to embark on a life-changing journey.

Participants serve in a variety of fields in one of more than 10 countries, and experience the transformation that comes with one year of international mission service. Volunteers serve in the spirit of accompaniment — walking together with global companions in mutuality, solidarity and interdependence.

Young Adults in Global Mission sends over 60 volunteers into service each August. Participants grow in faith and self-understanding as they engage in relationship and service with local host communities.

Service placements vary widely, from congregational and youth ministry to alternative education and health and development projects. Volunteers are placed according to their individual interests, skills or growth areas.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

Young Adults in Global Mission program qualifications:

- Young adults ages 21-29, with at least one year of post-high school experience; some country programs require volunteers to be at least 21 years of age
- A connection to the ELCA through membership in a congregation, study at an ELCA college or university, participation in an ELCA or Ecumenical Campus Ministry or service at an ELCA summer camp
- A commitment to serving in culturally and religiously diverse contexts

Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer characteristics include:

- Flexibility, curiosity, patience and a sense of humor!
- Emotional health and resilience.
- The ability to adapt to uncertainty and ambiguity and a desire to simply "be" with people and with God.
- Openness to exploring and deepening one's faith in the context of community.
- Willingness to learn a new language. Some country programs require previous foreign language skill. Basic language training is provided in other programs where English is not the primary local language.

How is the program funded?

- The average annual cost to support one volunteer in service is just under $11,000. The ELCA contributes approximately 70 percent of the cost of serving for each volunteer. Volunteers commit to a $4,000 fundraising effort to help support the cost of their year of service. Most volunteers raise these funds through their local congregations.
- Scholarship support is available for those demonstrating financial need.

What kind of support do volunteers receive?

- Full room and board
- Round trip travel to and from the country of service
- Medical insurance
- Monthly stipend that allows volunteers to live at an economic level similar to the communities in which they are serving
- Federal student loans are normally eligible for deferment
- Retreats for personal reflection, rest and recreation
- Pastoral and administrative support from a country coordinator living in the country of service

How do I know where I’ll serve?

Candidates apply to the program as a whole and not to a specific country program. Candidate preferences are considered, but ELCA staff and the international program coordinators make final country placement decisions. Willingness to serve in a variety of country programs strongly increases the chances of making a successful match between the candidate and the country program.