

2019 Paraguay Solidarity Tour • 2-16 March



“If you can’t feed one hundred people, then feed just one.”

- Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Solidarity Tours are one way Chalice seeks to break down barriers between us, so that we can care for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you for your interest in serving with us!

MISSION INTRODUCTION

Dates:	March 2-16, 2019
Location:	Villeta, Paraguay
Chalice Sponsor Site:	CMAVIL – Center of Maria Auxiliadora Villeta
Sponsor Children:	If your sponsor child’s code begins with VIL , we will be visiting their site!

MISSION OUTCOMES

What we want to do:

- Our Canadian and Paraguayan volunteers, staff and families will:
 - (a) share stories and **dialogue** to learn from one another, and
 - (b) collaborate in **service projects**.
- Our Canadian team will invite others to support our mission by **sponsoring a child** from Villeta, and we will collectively **raise funds** to support the community served by the CMAVIL Site.

The changes we want to see:

- Through meaningful dialogue, interaction and service, we will be invited to begin to **see and care for another as brothers and sisters**.
- We will have a **greater understanding** of both the challenges we face, as well as our capacity (with God's grace!) to respond with love and support.

SERVICE

If you travel with a firm list of things you will experience and accomplish, you will likely be disappointed. If you travel primarily as a learner, you are bound to succeed!

Sor María Graciela Fernández (Site Director) has invited Chalice volunteers and staff to engage with the following groups within the community of Villeta:

- Team Oñondivemi (site staff)
- Family circles (sponsorship beneficiaries)
- Children at the Centro Abierto (Open Center)
- Indigenous community



We are primarily recruiting volunteers who have a **heart for service**.

We are also recruiting volunteers who have experience in the following areas:

- Information Technology
- Photography
- Finance and savings
- Wood and leather handicrafts
- Public health
- Family/child psychology and counselling
- Social work
- Teaching mathematics
- Painting, artistic skills
- Coordinating events for children



It is our goal to recruit a team of **15-20 volunteers**. Our Chalice staff leads will be Joanne Albrecht, Mission Coordinator, and Douglas Estanga, International Manager for Latin America.

ESTIMATED COST

Mission expenses are currently estimated at:

- \$500 Mission Trip Program Fee
- \$1,200 Mission expense donation (land transportation, accommodations, meals, water, interpreters)
- \$400 Touring fee

In addition, the following costs are paid by volunteers directly:

- Flight to Asunción, return*
 - Hotel in transit (if required)*
 - Insurance
 - Immunizations and medications
 - Paraguayan Tourist Visa (\$150 USD)
- *We will provide booking options through our travel agent, Raptim Humanitarian Travel. Cost will depend on departure city.



CHALICE'S MISSION

“To bring the Poor to Christ and Christ to the Poor.”

Chalice is a Canadian Catholic charity that primarily supports community initiatives in developing countries through the sponsorship of children and elders in need. We are proud to announce that *MoneySense* magazine has given Chalice a top ‘A’ rating among International Aid and Development Charities in Canada; we have been at the top for 8 years in a row. We began our mission in the rectory of a church in Springhill, Nova Scotia, and through the generosity of our sponsors we are now bringing hope to over 50,000 children and elders at 57 sponsor sites in 15 countries, with no regard for gender, race or religious affiliation. Every sponsor site is under local direction, as we work closely with lay people, religious congregations and local communities in their efforts to provide care for families caught in the dehumanizing grip of extreme poverty and lack of education.

In our work, we call to mind St. Paul’s words: “we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5). “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27)

OUR PARAGUAYAN PARTNERS

Partner Name: **CMAVIL** - Center of Maria Auxiliadora Villeta
Location: **Villeta**, Paraguay
Director: Sor María Graciela Fernández
Site Opened: 2012
Serving: 498 children



Context:

The city of Villeta was founded on March 5, 1714 and is located on the banks of the Paraguay River. The district covers 995 km² and is home to 36,985 inhabitants (census 2017). It is known for being a port and industrial city.

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians have been engaged community social work (through CMAVIL) since 1964. With analysis and deep reflection on social problems, they seek to respond to the needs found in each of the vulnerable families, particularly in the peripheral areas of the city and in rural areas of the district. Their work is strengthened by joining groups of people of good will through different projects, creating a network of entities and NGOs to support their work.

In spite of being considered an "industrial city", poverty increases due to many factors such as: scarce professional training to work in the factories, little accompaniment of governmental entities, and the large number of families who immigrate from other areas to the so-called "settlements" on the banks of the Paraguay River or to other areas within the Villeta district.

It is also important to highlight the presence of the Mbya Guaraní Indigenous group that have settled in Villeta since 2013 due to being expelled from their ancestral lands. Without having a decent place to relocate, the Mbya are the most vulnerable group in the area due to the lack of basic services: electricity, water, education, and healthcare. Thankfully, the implementation of the Chalice Children Program in 2017 began a small step in accompaniment in education, nutrition and hygiene.

MISSION SCHEDULE – DRAFT (still TBC)

March 2 to 16

	<i>Week Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activities</i>
1	Saturday	Mar 2	AM - Flights from home cities to Toronto PM - Depart Toronto
2	Sunday	Mar 3	Arrive in Asunción, road travel to Villeta Mass, Reflection: entry into mission
3	Monday	Mar 4	Introduction to local community, CMAVIL Sponsor Site, Chalice in Paraguay
4	Tuesday	Mar 5	Service - Open Center (Founding of City of Villeta 1714)
5	Wednesday	Mar 6	Service - Open Center + Visit to Sol Naciente community Select Home Visits
6	Thursday	Mar 7	Service - Open Center + Visit to Ybate Community Select Home Visits
7	Friday	Mar 8	Service - Site Office + Open Center Select Home Visits
8	Saturday	Mar 9	Celebration for the Children and Families + Sponsorship and Solidarity Dialogue
19	Sunday	Mar 10	Mass + Visit to Indigenous Community Select Home Visits
10	Monday	Mar 11	Service - Site Staff + Circle Group Leaders
11	Tuesday	Mar 12	Reflection: heading home from mission + Celebration Dinner
12	Wednesday	Mar 13	Touring Day
13	Thursday	Mar 14	Touring Day
14	Friday	Mar 15	Flight from Asunción to Toronto
15	Saturday	Mar 16	Flights to home cities (as required)

FAITH SHARING

Our team will spend time together each day in prayer and reflection with either a passage from the Bible or another text of significance to one of our team members. We will also be invited to share about and reflect on our experiences from the day. We will participate in the Catholic Mass on Sundays at the local church.

MISSION TIMELINE

Oct 8 Application deadline

15 Confirm Team

18 Team Meeting 1*

25 Flights booked

Nov 1 Team Meeting 2

Dec 6 Team Meeting 3; Mission expense donation due (1st half or in full); Submit waivers

Jan 10 Team Meeting 4; Mission trip expense donation due (2nd half, if not yet paid)

Feb 7 Team Meeting 5

Mar 2-16 On Mission

Apr 4 Team Meeting 6

*All meetings by conference call

APPLICATION

For a mission application, or if you have any questions, please contact: **Joanne at 1-800-776-6855**

joannealbrecht@chalice.ca