

SOLIDARITY BRIDGE

MISSIONER APPLICATION

We invite you to complete an application for Solidarity Bridge. We are looking for medical, Spanish interpretation, and pastoral professionals who are interested in joining us for short-term (9-14 day) commitments. The following materials are required of each applicant.

1. Application form.
2. Letter of recommendation (see attached form). This may be from your current supervisor, your pastor, minister, priest, imam or rabbi, or from someone else who knows you well.
3. Copy of your current United States medical license (health care applicants).
4. Your résumé.
5. If a physician, a copy of your board certification and diploma.
6. If an interpreter, a copy of your interpreter training diploma or certification if you have them. If you are bilingual but not a trained interpreter, Solidarity Bridge will provide basic training.
7. A brief statement on why you want to participate in this mission. *What do you hope to receive from this experience?*
8. \$20 application processing fee, in the form of a check or money order. Once your application is on file, you will not be asked to pay this fee again. You may apply for future missions by just contacting our office.
9. Gather and send all materials to:

Solidarity Bridge
1577 Florence Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
solidaritybridge.info@gmail.com
fax: 847-328-6860

Thank you for your interest and for taking the time to complete this application. We will be in touch with you as we identify the needs of the next mission and select the appropriate team members. Applicants are usually informed of their status within six weeks of application.

CONTENTS:

1. Application Instructions
2. Financial Information
3. Application Form
4. Recommendation Form
5. Sample Letter to Pastor, Minister, Priest, Imam, Rabbi, etc.
6. Sample Letter to Family, Friends and Colleagues

MISSION APPLICATION ADDENDUM

- Each member of a mission team is accepted on an individual basis and therefore each person must go through the application process. Sometimes a physician may desire his/her physician's assistant, surgical technician or other associate to accompany him/her on a mission. We encourage missionaries to recruit their associates and welcome them to apply, but we cannot guarantee placement on a team. We make every effort to recruit team members to meet the various needs of the particular mission trip.
- Mission team members sometimes inquire about a family member or friend accompanying them on the mission. At this time, we do not have a program to accommodate such arrangements in a way that would be fruitful to the companions or beneficial to the goals of the mission trip. The work of a mission trip is demanding to the point that relationships and activities outside of the team could be a distraction. For a companion to be considered for the mission, they must be able to contribute a specific skill to the mission goals. Sometimes there is a role on a mission team for a general helper. Missioners' family members and friends may apply for that role but we cannot guarantee their placement on the mission team.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Solidarity Bridge is an independent, faith-based, non-profit. We are not underwritten by budgeted funds from any church entity. We rely upon the generosity of our participants and individual donations. Each team member is asked to donate funds to the mission. While the requested donation may seem a daunting amount for some, it is also an opportunity to grow in prayer and faith, and an exercise in learning how to depend on God for provision. There is a saying that “God never sends where He does not also provide.” Many who have been involved in mission work can testify to the miraculous ways God opened up the floodgates of heaven in financial blessing. We hear testimonies of surprise and delight as team members report how friends, family, and colleagues eagerly support them. Some team members may be hesitant to ask others to help with the requested donation. They may feel as though they are asking for money for themselves. But in truth, people are being asked to support the work of God by way of support of the team member. Inviting others to participate financially in the mission trip gives them the opportunity to share in the mission’s fruit and blessings.

We Can Help: While missionaries are asked to donate funds as part of their own participation in the program, no one is accepted or rejected based upon the ability or inability to provide the necessary funds. We will do our best to support individuals needing financial assistance by helping them set up a fundraising website, contacting their home parish, providing letter templates for contacting friends or family, etc. Team members who need such assistance should contact our office.

Cost: We count on each missionary to make a tax deductible donation of \$2,600 to Solidarity Bridge. In turn, Solidarity Bridge absorbs all of the costs of the mission including travel, lodging, food, and others such as staff time, medicines and supplies, Bolivian physician and hospital fees, etc. For every \$1 a missionary contributes, Solidarity Bridge must raise \$3 to cover the cost of the mission.

The missionary contribution may be submitted at one time or in installments. The first \$1,300 is nonrefundable and is due 30 days after being notified of acceptance on the team. Team membership is not considered final and your airline ticket cannot be purchased until this first amount is received. The remaining donation is due six weeks before our departure. If a team member has special circumstances that make these deadlines difficult, they may call the office and discuss arrangements. If a team member must withdraw due to a medical or family emergency, it may be possible to apply some or all contributions made to participation in a future mission trip for which they qualify.

Contributions from Friends and Family: Team members will often receive donations on their behalf. These will be “credited” toward their requested missionary donation. If designated donations are received in excess of \$2,600, the team member may request that the funds be applied toward their participation in a future mission trip (some time restrictions may apply). When receiving donations from others, checks should not be written to the team member personally. All checks must be made payable to Solidarity Bridge and the team member’s name should be noted on the check. Solidarity Bridge is a 501c3 non-profit and contributions are tax-deductible.

SOLIDARITY BRIDGE MISSIONER APPLICATION

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____ MISSION NAME/LOCATION (1st Choice): _____

MISSION DATE (1st Choice): _____

PERSONAL (Please type or print clearly)

Name			
Address	City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Home FAX	Home E-Mail
Place of employment			
Company Address	City	State	Zip
Position/Title			
Work Phone	Pager	Work FAX	Work E-mail
Date of Birth	Male ___ Female ___	Country of Birth	Citizenship
Have you been on a mission trip? Yes ___ No ___		If so, with what organization?	
Where did you go on mission?	When did you go on mission?	What role did you have?	
What languages do you speak fluently (besides English)?			
How did you hear about Solidarity Bridge?			
Passport number and expiration date:			
Are you a member of a Church/Temple/Synagogue/ Mosque?		Denomination and name of Cleric /Religious Community Leader	
Name of Church/Temple/Synagogue/Mosque		Address	
Are you involved in any Church/Temple/Synagogue/Mosque activities?			

MEDICAL HISTORY (if pertinent)

MEDICAL CONDITIONS which may be a factor in participating in this mission trip
ALLERGIES
MEDICATIONS

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name	Relationship		
Street	City	State	Zip
Day Phone	Evening Phone	Cell phone	
Name	Relationship		
Street	City	State	Zip
Day Phone	Evening Phone	Cell phone	

Solidarity Bridge is a mission of the laity of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. We welcome people of other faiths and people of no faith orientation. We ask, though, that all missionaries understand and appreciate the faith dimension of this project. We do not proselytize but celebrate our faith by witness and example. People of all faiths and those with no connection to a religious tradition are encouraged to join us and we welcome them into our spiritual sharing and reflection.

Prior to the mission trip, we will invite you to participate in reflections (via emails, conference calls, etc.) to facilitate spiritual preparation for this journey. In addition, we will provide cultural orientation to help guide your expectations and approach to the realities and experiences you may encounter. These preparations are an integral part of the mission trip experience and we ask each missionary to make it a priority to participate.

I have read the missionary application materials, and I understand and support Solidarity Bridge mission goals.

Signature

Date of Recommendation: _____

SOLIDARITY BRIDGE
CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATION

Person asking for recommendation: _____

Your relationship to the applicant? _____

Please return directly to: Solidarity Bridge
 1577 Florence Ave.
 Evanston, IL 60201
 Fax: 847 328 6860
 solidaritybridge.info@gmail.com

The person who gave you this recommendation form is applying to go on a medical mission trip to Bolivia. What qualities in the individual would be helpful to her/him if chosen to go?

What qualities in the individual would **not** be helpful to her/him if chosen to go?

The mission is often stressful. Not only is the person in a foreign setting and culture, but she or he is confronted with needing to work in a very different (and often difficult) environment with people who are not known to her/him. As you assess this person's capacity to function in difficult situations, do you have any pause about her/his involvement in the mission?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Please explain:

Your Name

Your Signature

SAMPLE LETTER TO RELIGIOUS LEADER

(Once you are accepted for mission, we are willing to send this to your pastor if you would find this helpful. This letter is oriented towards Catholic parishes. Please let us know if you would like us to use another version of this letter, oriented to another faith tradition.)

Dear Father XXXXX:

I am pleased to announce that a member of your community, (first/last name), has been selected to join our Mission team to _____, Bolivia, in Month, 20XX. We are a mission of the laity of the Archdiocese of Chicago. We reach out to the poor in various mission sites, in concert with our partner dioceses in Bolivia. The enclosed brochure describes our efforts, or you may learn more through our web site, www.solidaritybridge.org.

(First name) will be giving of (him/her)self in several ways. (He/She) will be donating time and energy both in preparing for this trip and during their two-week ministry in Bolivia. As an independent non-profit, we are not underwritten by the Archdiocese. Each team member is expected to raise funds to contribute to the mission, and we expect each participant to contribute as they are able. We also believe it is important to have others donate as well.

I see this as a great opportunity to allow (first name)'s fellow parishioners to also participate in this mission. Would you consider inviting the parish to support (first name) and the Mission to Bolivia? This is a very tangible way for others to participate in this project and support (first name)'s outreach to the poor. (First name) is requested to contribute \$2,600 toward mission trip expenses. Perhaps there is some part of this which the parish could provide. Thank you for considering this request.

I especially ask that you call your parishioners to prayerful support of (first name) and the Mission. Perhaps your parish might consider a special commissioning some time in advance of the mission trip, for which we will provide some guidelines. The team will be in Bolivia in Month, 20XX. I know your community will be blessed by their involvement in this mission.

Thank you for your participation in charity, justice and mission.

Your brother in Christ,

Juan Lorenzo Hinojosa, Ph.D.
Executive Director

SAMPLE LETTER TO FAMILY, FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES

Dear Family, Friends, and Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce I've been accepted as a member of a medical mission team! I will travel to Bolivia in Month, 20XX.

Bolivia is a landlocked country in the heart of South America. It is a land of political turmoil that has undergone nearly 200 coups in its 187 years of being a nation. As the poorest country on its continent, an alarming 70 percent of its people live in desperate poverty, 63 percent struggle with little to no access to medical resources, and its average citizen makes 22 cents per hour of hard labor. Solidarity Bridge is working to heal the people of Bolivia and this mission trip is critical to their efforts. If you want to learn more, please visit www.solidaritybridge.org.

I invite you to be a part of my journey in two ways. First, I ask for your prayers that God would bless this venture and that the people of Bolivia would experience God's love and grace through us. Second, I am raising \$2,600 toward the mission effort. Would you help me? Many lives will be transformed and saved through your gift!

All contributions are fully tax deductible. Thank you for considering joining me in making an impact in the lives of the Bolivian people.

In gratitude,

(Your name)

_____ Yes, you can count on my prayer support for (your first/last name)

_____ Yes, I would like to provide financial assistance. Enclosed please find my gift of \$_____ in (your full name)'s name. **(All checks should be made to Solidarity Bridge, not to the individual.)**

Please return this form to Solidarity Bridge in the envelope provided. They will notify me of your gift!
(we can provide envelopes for you, please let us know how many you need)