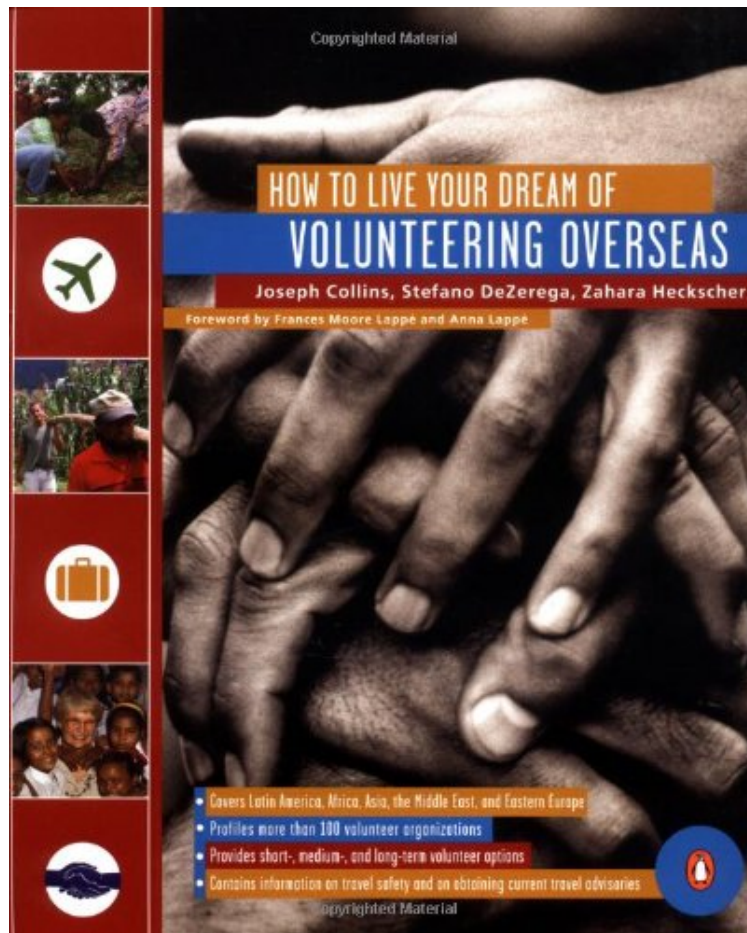


## How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas

*Joseph Collins, Stefano DeZerega, Zahara Heckscher*  
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**Joseph Collins, Stefano DeZerega, Zahara Heckscher : How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas**  
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Good Resource By Ella Taylor When your thinking about volunteering overseas there are a lot of books, web sites, and opinions to sort through. This book, just like any other, should be just one of the many resources you look at. Here's what I liked about the book:- It gives a very no-nonsense view of overseas volunteering. It doesn't look at the process as a romantic adventure but rather lays out the bare bones of what organizations do, what your part will be, and how to go about getting there, not to mention the realities of what you may be walking into. I for one needed to be brought back to earth and this book did it.- It has a huge list of organizations along with great information like "What volunteers pay and what they receive", how to apply, and education relinquishment that comes in handy when planning.- The tone of the book is like talking to a recently returned volunteer. It's pretty informal and, above all, honest to the point of potentially being bias. If you are looking

for a long term and potentially paid (or at least free) position with an aid organization, this is not the book for you. It is made very clear that most overseas volunteers pay a fee in order to participate and the author goes into great detail explaining why this is the case. Chapter 7 "Overcoming Financial Obstacles" is very helpful. For other resources try *Delaying The Real World* and *The Back Door Guide to Short-Term Job Adventures: Internships, Summer Jobs, Seasonal Work, Volunteer Vacations, and Transitions Abroad*, both of which have been very helpful for me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Awesome Book Of Information For International Travelers* By Diva\_O\_Gee Definitely has all the info I need for planning my upcoming international trip. 51 of 53 people found the following review helpful. *Socially responsible guide to volunteering* By Robert Reid If you have a good heart, are curious about other cultures, and are new to volunteering, the opening section of this book may come as a bit of a shock. First, volunteering isn't free. Most volunteer placement organizations require substantial fees (usually \$1,000 plus) to arrange for your food, accommodation, and provide basic training. Second, altruism, when applied to international development, isn't always helpful. There's a beautiful example of this in Chapter 3. You imagine that three volunteer groups from around the world come to Washington DC to help the city develop and get past its problems of violence and poverty. The first group is from Zambia- they identify the problem as a shortage of churches, and lack of respect for elders. The second group is from the - they propose knocking down skyscrapers to add more green space. The third group is a Rastafarian youth organization- they criticize the focus on power and money, and help DC by training politicians to grow ganja. Similarly, the best intentions of American volunteers aren't always welcomed or even potentially helpful abroad unless they are developed in the context of the host culture. From this point, the book describes the practical logistics of volunteering abroad- from fundraising to support your trip, learning about your host country, preparing for your travel, and ultimately being an effective volunteer. The bulk of the book focuses on organizational profiles of volunteer organizations. These are extraordinarily helpful as critical analyses of many such organizations, and should help you navigate through the bewildering maze of opportunities. Unfortunately, the "over 100" organizations that they profile are just a fraction of what's out there, and there's really no easy way to navigate through these. There are a few indexes in the back (organizations offering short term programs, organizations placing volunteers in Latin America, etc), but there's no easy way to look for volunteer opportunities in a specific country, for example. If this organizational profile guide was online or on a CD, it would be infinitely more useful (and cheaper to publish...)

More than 100,000 people contact the Peace Corps every year, but only 3,000 are placed overseas. To help more Americans find volunteer opportunities abroad Joseph Collins, Stefano DeZerega, and Zahara Heckscher-all founders of respected volunteer organizations-have written a guide that provides all the necessary information on volunteering in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. Presented in a user-friendly format that includes case studies, worksheets, and quotes from international volunteers, *How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas* provides college students, senior citizens, and everyone in between with information on: \* How to decide if volunteering overseas is for you \* How to choose the right program \* What to do before and after you go abroad \* Fundraising and financing \* How to be an effective volunteer \* Political and social contexts of Americans volunteering abroad \* The Peace Corps \* More than one hundred volunteer organizations

About the Author Joseph Collins is the co-founder of the Institute for Food and Development Policy (Food First). A Guggenheim Fellow and recipient of the Alternative Nobel Prize, he is a frequent lecturer and a consultant to the United Nations, specializing in evaluations and development of community organization.