

HOSPICE, PALLIATIVE CARE AND PATIENT SUPPORT

Study Tour for Hospice, Palliative Care and Patient Support Professionals

The Community Connections Program offers 3 week, homestay-based, practical training opportunities in the United States for professionals who demonstrate aptitude and leadership potential in different fields. In the field of Hospice, Palliative Care and Patient Support, ten professionals from Serbia will have the opportunity to meet with their U.S. counterparts and learn about the organization and operation of the US health system in the area of hospice, palliative care, and patient support in different settings (hospitals, home care, hospices and hospice services, nursing homes, etc.) and how they relate to one another. They will experience a multi-disciplinary approach and how that affects the patients and their families and their ability to have a greater quality of life. They will explore support services for patients and their families within the U.S. health system, including the role of civil society and volunteers. Participants will learn about the importance of doctor/patient communication, communication with the patient by other medical professionals (nurses, etc.), of involving patients in the decision-making regarding their treatment, and psycho-social and religious/spiritual support. They will understand the regulations and enforcement of regulations in these areas to protect patients' rights and ensure quality of care and what provisions are made for patient advocacy. All expenses in the U.S., including international airfare, insurance, professional and cultural programs and room and board will be provided by World Learning (passport fees and travel within Serbia are not included).

Goals of the program

- To provide participants with professional training and practical day-to-day exposure in the field of Hospice, Palliative Care and Patient Support
- To encourage public-private partnerships in Serbia
- To create links between the U.S. and Serbian communities

Community Connections Program

Community Connections is a United States Agency for International Development program designed to promote the exchange of cultural ideas and values between Serbian participants, U.S. families, and U.S. local community host organizations. Managed by USAID and implemented by World Learning in Serbia and Washington, DC, the program works in collaboration with the Public Affairs Department of the U.S. Embassy in Serbia and host exchange organizations in U.S. communities selected by USAID. These host organizations arrange for the home stays and professional development aspects of the program. Community Connections is currently being conducted in several other countries in Europe and Eurasia.

Recruitment

World Learning will be recruiting for professionals in the field of Hospice, Palliative Care and Patient Support from Serbia beginning on **June 18, 2010**. Eligible candidates must submit an application form by the **deadline of July 9, 2010**. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews which will take place on **July 19-21, 2010**. The dates of the program in the United States are planned for late **October to mid November, 2010**.

Who can apply?

In order to be **eligible** for the Community Connections Program, applicants **must** be a medical or non medical professional working in palliative and/or hospice care for chronically or terminally ill patients (e.g. Institute for Oncology and Radiology, Institute for Mother and Child, BelHospice or other tertiary centers dealing with palliative care); doctors and nurses from larger primary and secondary sector health centers from major Serbian municipalities; psychologists/psychiatrists working in the health sector in major Serbian municipalities, social workers; journalists engaged in health topics and patients' rights; representatives from NGOs or non formal groups working on the promotion or advocacy for patients' rights; patients' associations doing advocacy or education in this area; Ministry of Health/Ministry of Labor and Social Policy representatives in charge of the implementation of the palliative care strategy and action plan and fulfill the following **general requirements**:

- Be a citizen of Serbia and currently reside and work in Serbia
- Able to demonstrate professional aptitude and leadership potential in the chosen field
- Have significant experience in the field and plan to work for at least two more years in the field



- Complete all the necessary forms
- Eligible to receive and maintain a U.S. J-1 visa
- Committed to returning to Serbia immediately upon completion of the program
- Willing to live with a host family in the United States

For more information or to get an application please contact World Learning or visit our website.



World Learning

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