

# SOLIDARITY BRIDGE

## MISSIONER APPLICATION

We invite you to complete an application for Solidarity Bridge. We are looking for medical, educational and pastoral professionals who are interested in joining us for short-term (10-14 day) commitments. The following materials are required of each applicant.

1. Completed application form.
2. If it is appropriate, please obtain a letter of recommendation from your pastor, minister, priest, imam, or rabbi.
3. Letter of recommendation from your current supervisor or colleague or a letter of recommendation from someone who knows you well (see attached recommendation form).
4. Copy of your current United States professional license to practice (health care applicants only).
5. Copy of your current résumé or a brief work/education history.
6. If a physician, a copy of your board certification or diploma.
7. A brief statement on why you want to participate in this mission.
8. \$20 application fee, in the form of a check or money order, for processing. 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 all materials together and send to:

Solidarity Bridge  
1577 Florence Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60201

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

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## MISSION APPLICATION ADDENDUM

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

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A Faith Ministry: The mission effort is a Faith Ministry. This means that there are no budgeted funds from the diocese to underwrite our expenses. We rely solely upon the generosity of our participants and individual donations. As such, each team member is asked to donate funds to the mission. While being responsible for one's own funds may seem daunting, it is also an opportunity to grow in prayer and faith, 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 also hear testimonies of surprise and delight as team members report how friends, family, and colleagues became the channels for God's provision. People do want to be a part of the Mission by way of supporting a team member. Some team members may be hesitant about letting their needs be known. 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 in missions by way of support of the mission team member. It is not the team member to whom they give. It is to God. Allowing others to know of the need for financial support 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, provide letter templates for contacting friends or families etc. Team members who need such assistance should contact our office.

Cost: We count on each missionary to make a tax deductible donation of \$2600 to Solidarity Bridge. In turn, Solidarity Bridge absorbs all of the costs of the mission including and beyond the travel, lodging and food (i.e., staff time, medicines/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 paid in full or in installments. The first payment of \$1,300 is a nonrefundable deposit due 30 days after being notified of acceptance on the team. Membership on the team is not considered final and your airline ticket cannot be purchased until this first payment is received. The second payment is due 30 days after the first payment, and the third payment is due 60 days after the first payment. If a team member has special circumstances that make these deadlines difficult, they need simply to call the office and discuss possible arrangements. If a team member must withdraw due to a medical or family emergency, any participation contributions they have forwarded to the mission may be applied to participation in a future mission trip for which they would qualify.

Contributions from Friends and Family: Often team members will receive donations on their behalf. These will be "credited" to their individual account. If designated donations are received in excess of the \$2,600, the team member will receive a refund up to the amount of any personal funds they may have applied to their account or the funds can be kept for a future mission. When receiving donations from others, checks should not be made out to the team member personally. All checks must be written 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Choice): \_\_\_\_\_ MISSION DEPARTURE DATE (1<sup>st</sup> 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?			
If you have a passport, what is its number?			
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?	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL HISTORY** (if pertinent). Please list any medical conditions which may be a factor in participating in this mission trip.

<b>ALLERGIES</b>
<b>MEDICATIONS</b>

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

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

The Solidarity Bridge is a mission of the laity of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. We welcome people of other faiths and no faith orientation. We ask though, that all understand and appreciate the faith ministry 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.

I am open to the faith orientation of the mission, and am willing to support its 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

The person that gave you this recommendation form is applying to go on a mission 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 to use our versions of this letter for other faith traditions.)*

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 can go to our web site, [www.solidaritybridge.org](http://www.solidaritybridge.org), to learn more.

(First name) will be giving of themselves 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 a faith mission, each of the team members is also expected to raise funds that contribute to the mission. We want each participant to contribute to this project 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) as (he or she) goes. (First name)'s expected donation be \$2,400. Perhaps there is some part of this for 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 (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 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 181 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 without access to medical resources, and its average citizen makes 22 cents per hour of hard labor.

Solidarity Bridge sends missionaries, be they doctors and nurses, educators or business persons to help the poor in their needs. If you want to learn more about the mission effort, and you have access to the internet, you can go to [www.solidaritybridge.org](http://www.solidaritybridge.org).

I invite you to be a part of this ministry in two ways. First, I ask for your prayers that God would bless this venture and show His love and grace to the people of Bolivia through us. Secondly, to be a part of this ministry I need to raise \$2,400. Would you like to help? Please complete the following donation form, specify your gift. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

If you are able to participate in this ministry through either means of prayer or finances, please return the bottom form to me. Thank you for considering joining me in making an impact in the lives of the Bolivian people.

In gratitude,

(Your name)

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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 the Solidarity Bridge, not to the individual.)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your tax-deductible gift to:  
Solidarity Bridge, 1577 Florence Ave., Evanston, IL 60201