

Have You Considered The Economy of Communion YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2017?



Dear Young People of the Focolare and those interested in the Economy of Communion:

In 2004, the *Economy of Communion (EoC) in Freedom* project began a simple 'pilot' internship program for those young people involved in the Focolare Movement who might be interested in having an experience of working in one of the 860+ EoC businesses worldwide for a short period of time. During these last 13 years, more than 60 youth have participated from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, the Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, the Philippines, the United States and Venezuela. Today, companies from many nations offer EoC internships and interest continues to grow.

What has been our experience with the program? Outstanding young people have been able to have a unique work experience, with many contributing significantly to the companies in which they have worked. In return, they have gained valuable experience that has changed their lives: contributions to their student studies and thesis/dissertation research, improved technical capabilities that have help them land jobs in their areas of expertise, and increased participation and sharing of their expertise in their own countries with several becoming youth representatives on their local geographic EoC commissions.

More importantly, they have contributed to this spreading of the culture of giving, and a more vibrant network among those young people who believe in a united world.

For more information on this program, please see the attached summary. If you are interested, we would encourage you to apply.

All my unity with your continuing studies and work experiences!

John Mundell
President, Mundell & Associates, Inc. ("Mondo Nuovo")
North American EoC Commission
Member, International EoC Commission

*Unlike a consumer economy,
based on a culture of having,
the Economy of Communion is based on the culture of giving.*

*This might seem to be difficult, ambitious, heroic,
but it is not so, because human beings
made in the image of God, who is Love,
find their fulfillment in loving, in giving.
This need is in the deepest recesses of their being
whether they have faith or not.*

*On this basis, supported by our experience,
lies the hope of a universal spreading of the Economy of Communion.*

Chiara Lubich, Brazil, May 1991

Have You Considered The Economy of Communion Youth Internship Program



“The community of believers was of one heart and mind...
...and no one was in need among them.”
- Acts of the Apostles, 4:32-37

WHAT: The Economy of Communion (EoC) is a worldwide economic reality based on the Focolare’s spirituality of unity and Christian social teachings. The EoC began its development in Brazil in 1991, and has since expanded with participation by over 860 companies worldwide. In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI mentioned the EoC in his newest social encyclical ‘*Caritas in Veritate*’ (*Charity in Truth*) as a promising form of intermediate activity between for-profit business and classic non-profit institutions. EoC businesses use their profits 1) to provide support for those with financial, health, housing and educational needs in contact with the local Focolare communities, 2) to promote the expansion of the EoC business network and growth of the EoC companies, and 3) to provide formation and training in the ‘culture of giving’ for those interested in participating in the EoC. As part of this spreading of the culture of giving, the EoC Internship Program was begun in 2004.

PURPOSE: To give young people a real-life experience of working in an EoC company that would allow both technical training in their area of interest as well as spiritual, ethical and cultural formation in the ideals and goals of the EoC as lived in a company.

WHO: Young people who are involved in some aspect of the worldwide Focolare Movement or selected other youth who are 21 years of age or older and are currently studying at a university or have completed their studies. Intern candidates complete the online *Application for the EoC Internship Program* and submit a resume summarizing their educational experience and work area of interest and their language(s). Additionally, two additional recommendations are required: from a director of the Focolare within their geographic zone, the International EoC Commission, the local zone EoC Commission, or an advisor/faculty member. (Only 1 from academia please).

Once accepted into the program, the candidate’s information is provided to the zone EoC Commission and other representatives to begin to circulate among the EoC businesses both within and outside of the candidate’s Focolare Zone. Final selection is completed by the EoC companies and is based on existing internship availability, candidate qualifications, company needs and economic conditions.

LENGTH OF TIME: an internship program normally of from 1 to 3 months is expected.

EXPECTATIONS: Each EoC company, local EoC commission and/or local Focolare community will provide transportation/food/lodging support for the intern (or seek support). A program of selected readings, on-the-job training and hands-on work activities, and interpersonal dialogues will occur on a daily basis. Weekly meetings with the intern and the EoC entrepreneur will take place to share personal experiences of managing the EoC business and putting into practice the vision and ideals of the EoC. Outside of daily work, the intern is expected to also participate in various scheduled cultural events as well as share in the life of the local Focolare community at meetings of New Humanity, New Families, the Gen or in the annual Mariapolis.





PRACTICAL ECONOMY OF COMMUNION INTERN GUIDELINES

JANUARY 2017

What is needed to apply for an internship?

To apply, visit www.edc-info.org/internships/apply and complete the online application. In addition, you will need the following documents:

- Resume or CV
- Picture of yourself
- 2 letters of Recommendation from the local co-director of the Focolare within their geographic zone, Gen Assistant, local EoC Commission, or advisor/faculty member. (Only 1 from advisor/faculty member please)

How does the EoC evaluate the applicants for an internship?

- Education, Professional Skills, Language Skills, Age, and Life Experiences (actual requirements may vary within each EoC company).
- Compatibility with available EoC companies, other interns, host community resources.

What required intern expenses must be covered before an internship can be approved?

It is necessary before each internship begins that there is perfect agreement between the entrepreneur and the young candidate about who supports each expense. These costs include:

- Housing and Food.
- Transportation to and from the company location (plane, taxi, parking, gas, drivers).
- Transportation during the internship (bus, taxi, gas money to work and local activities).
- Visa costs, Insurance costs
- Personal needs: personal care & health items, personal house supplies, recreation expenses.
- Communication: as needed, to contact home and/or to arrange travel.

How do we, together, make the intern program possible?

- Intern contribution (pay some expenses when possible, works for EoC company, for local Zone or host).
- Intern family contribution (gives financial support, which may include hosting other interns)
- Home Zone contribution (gives financial support, which may include hosting other interns)
- Host Zone contribution (give financial support, welcomes the intern as a citizen of the zone)
- Host Community contribution (give financial support, welcomes the intern into the local families)
- EoC Company contribution (provides work, pays intern/some expenses when possible, arranges room & board)
- EoC World (gives financial and/or educational support to bring the EoC intern program ahead)

What optional expenses will the intern need to cover?

- Personal travel during the internship (if/when the EoC company schedule and host schedule allow).
- Interns are free to plan additional travel before/after the internship, as passport/visa laws allow.
- Language class or private tutor.
- Expenses for any visitors (if/when the host EoC company and host home allow).
- Gifts and personal items to take home.

What is the intern required to bring?

- Valid passport, visa (as required), both must be valid until 6 months after the internship.
- Medical history including a complete record of vaccinations.
- Medical insurance, good for care in the host country.
- A list of bilingual 'emergency contact' phone numbers, e-mail addresses, Skype addresses.
- Work clothes, as needed to participate in the work of the host company (this varies).
- Outdoor clothing, as needed to walk about in the local climate at the time of the internship.
- Dress and casual clothing, as needed for free time activities.



What optional, helpful items would the intern perhaps want to bring?

- Cell phone, alarm clock, laptop, watch, overnight travel bag, Skype account information.
- Camera, batteries, flash drives.

What not to bring?

- Do not bring anything of great financial or sentimental value

What should an Intern expect?

- To work full-time, as needed, for the host EoC company, as any other company employee.
- To live together with other interns and/or with a local Focolare/Gen or host family.
- To look after your own laundry and personal needs during your free time.
- To share responsibility for preparation of meals, house chores and yard work where you stay.
- To be given rides to all required events not within walking distance.
- To walk to the laundry, grocery, office, Mass.
- To find bus options, available for a fee.
- To attend some required local Focolare activities.
- To be invited to optional local Focolare activities.
- To spend some time on your own, or with other interns, exploring the city or neighborhood.
- To write a brief report (at least bi-weekly) with pictures back to Zone sharing EoC experience as it happens.
- To make presentations on the EoC Intern experience after returning to your country.
- To write up the EoC Intern experience as a university paper or article for Citta Nuova/Living City.