

[Costa Rica with Youth Challenge International](#)

Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 1:30am

Hey everyone!

As you may or may not know, I will be spending some time in Costa Rica next summer to work as a volunteer with an organization called Youth Challenge International. Naturally, I need money for this to happen (donate at <http://yci.takingitglobal.org/ind/Manderson>). I'd like to share with you guys a bit of info and my motives for embarking on this project:

My Goals

Through Youth Challenge International, I hope to travel to Costa Rica in May 2008 for 10 weeks of aiding in local construction and development projects.

I choose to embark on this project for several reasons:

First and foremost, I wish to contribute positively to the lives of others. Although I could do this by staying in Canada, where such opportunities are plentiful, I have chosen this project because I feel it will provide me with an experience I would not be able to find here in Canada. I've had the chance to live a higher-income life in Alberta for two summers, now I want to try the other end of the spectrum and pay to work elsewhere pro bono.

I feel that interacting with a culture different from my own is integral to becoming a better world citizen, not to mention broadening my own perspective. I want to know how it feels to be a true humanitarian. When I say I care about the wellbeing of humanity, I want to be able to back up that statement with hands on experience.

Lastly, I'm eager to forge new bonds with our team members and those of the communities where we will be working. This will be an incredible experience from which I hope to bring back home as much as possible.

Ultimately, the goal is to acquire skills and contacts and a new drive to work for aid projects both in Canada and internationally.

A Work In Progress

There is much to when preparing for a project of this magnitude. So far, I have been taking Spanish lessons at the local community college, researching Costa Rica, taking CPR/First Aid, paying for all immunizations. I've been working evenings to help come up with the needed \$3,800 plus money for plane tickets. This can sometimes be difficult, as I

am also pursuing bachelor's in mechanical engineering.

The \$3,800 goes toward training, accommodations, food, water, tools, building supplies, local transport, insurance and administration costs. It is because YCI's employees work hard that I can be linked up to projects in South America and team members from all over. It is well worth the cost to have these services available to the volunteers; otherwise we would not have the means to partake in such projects.

Your support is appreciated!

I would like to thank you for taking the time to visit my fundraising page. This is a huge undertaking and I can use all the support I can get. Even if you cannot contribute financially, you can help out by volunteering at a planned event, providing door prizes, gift basket items, or even space to host an event. If you have any questions or comments whatsoever, please contact me via email: manderson.andrew@gmail.com

Here's the link to my fundraising site once more:

<http://yci.takingitglobal.org/ind/Manderson>

You can donate directly via credit card and Paypal. For those who are not comfortable donating via internet, I also accept funds in person, be it via credit card or cash. For any donation of \$25 or over I will write you a receipt for a tax deduction. I appreciate your taking the time to read this. Please link this site to others in order to pass along the good word!

Cheers everyone. Thank you for helping to make this possible!

-Andrew Manderson

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Here's a list of individuals who have either helped out financially or have offered help for fundraising efforts so far. Thank you all! You guys rock!

- Jon Richt
- Valerie Arsenau
- Julien Léger
- Mom & Dad
- Nicole Babineau
- Jason Blaquièrè
- Mathieu Boudreau
- Sébastien et Gérard Belliveau
- Alana Chuchmuch
- Éric Pitre
- Déborah Nadeau
- Gaëtan Landry

- Jenny Melanson
- Sarah Burke

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In this note: [Jon Richt \(notes\)](#), [Julien Léger \(notes\)](#), [Valerie Arseneau](#), [Eric Pitre \(notes\)](#), [Jason Blaquiere \(notes\)](#), [Mathieu Boudreau \(notes\)](#), [Alana Chuchmuch](#), [Déborah Nadeau \(notes\)](#), [Gaëtan Landry \(notes\)](#), [Sarah Burke \(notes\)](#), [Jenny Melanson \(notes\)](#), [Erin Hantke \(notes\)](#)



[Andrew Manderson](#) at 1:55am November 28

Thanks for kicking off the donations, Jon! I truly appreciate it, man.



[Valerie Arseneau](#) at 9:23am November 28

Belle initiative Andy! I hope you will have some internet over there so you can blog and keep us up to date! I'll be cheering you from Mexico lol. I'd love to donate but without a credit card it's not really do-able online. Let me know if you ever need help with a fundraiser or something.



[Michael Leukert](#) at 5:01pm November 28

good luck! and be careful. it was my experience that entering a foreign environment, even if peaceful, is an easy way to get killed. usually when i least expected it. for the record, i never regretted going. :)

i cant help financially, too bad you didnt ask 18 months ago...i cant even fly to ca this year to see my sis.

wish you the best of luck, experiences and encounters!