



Roots of Change Foundation

The Father Denis Hébert Volunteer Award

Father Denis Hébert

Father Denis Hébert, an Edmonton Archdiocesan priest, has spent more than 20 years of his priestly life living in Edgard Lang, one of the poorest areas in Managua City, the capital of Nicaragua. During this time, his mission has been devoted to encouraging and guiding impoverished communities to become organized so that they are better able to empower themselves to make efficient use of their meager resources. His untiring and patient efforts have provided many families with new opportunities to develop a healthier and productive lifestyle.

Roots of Change Foundation

The Roots of Change Foundation, an Edmonton based charitable organization, has a mandate to raise funds that are essential to the success of various educational, medical, and poverty relief projects in Nicaragua. New projects are identified annually by FUNDACCO, the Foundation's agent in Nicaragua initiated by Father Denis. Success in completing any one project is totally dependent on the generosity of individuals, families, and organizations that have heard of the difference that Father Hébert has made in peoples' lives. Please visit the Foundation's website www.rootsofchange.ca for additional information on these projects.

The Foundation's Board of Directors invites individuals to participate in Father Denis' cause in a unique manner: by becoming a volunteer in Nicaragua. Such an undertaking is a more direct way of supporting someone in need: feeding a handicapped child, helping a student with a homework assignment, working side by side with a farmer as she wields a hoe in the fields. Moreover, your personal involvement will encourage a stranger to better him/herself in an environment where there is often little reason to hope for a better future. Bringing goodness into the life of a needy neighbor will bring you peace and contentment.

The Father Denis Hébert Volunteer Award

The Award is valued at \$2000 and will be given to the recipient in two parts, half upon arrival and the balance mid-way into the stay.

This Award will be granted to a qualified candidate on a calendar year basis.

The Award is used to cover living costs – food, accommodation, and transportation – while in Nicaragua. Transportation costs to and from Nicaragua, as well as other personal costs are the responsibility of the volunteer.

To be considered for this Award, candidates must:

- be 18 years of age or older before departing for Nicaragua as a volunteer.
- have the personality, temperament, and social skills that would make the volunteer experience a fulfilling one for all parties.
- be prepared to volunteer for a period of two to three months.
- commit to presenting to the Roots of Change Foundation Board, at a mutually agreed upon time, a report of your volunteer experiences
- complete and forward an Application Form by December 31 to the Volunteer Award Coordinator, Roots of Change Foundation.
- Possess a working knowledge of Spanish, as assessed by a Roots of Change Foundation Board member.



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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the attached Application Form (also available at www.rootsofchange.ca)
2. Submit an essay
 - Complete and attach to the Application Form a thoughtful essay (minimum one page) in which you express your reasons for wanting to spend time with the poor in Nicaragua.

Some ideas to consider in your essay

- a) What would you like to do as a volunteer?
 - b) What personal attributes do you have that would likely make your volunteer experience a successful one?
 - c) What motivates you to consider taking on this responsibility?
 - d) Do you have the inner strength to carry you through the emotional side of your volunteer journey in a foreign land, particularly if you are the only volunteer on site? (Your commitment would be for two to three months.)
3. Letters of Reference

Two letters of reference are required for your application – select two from the following list:

- Teacher or administrator from your present school (if applicable)
 - A family member
 - A parish priest
 - If working, your immediate supervisor
 - If already volunteering, the person you report to
4. Assemble your application, sign and date it.
 5. Submit the completed application to:
Volunteer Award Coordinator
Roots of Change Foundation
P.O. Box 92
St. Albert, AB T8N 0B8
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Please note:

- Applications and supporting material are confidential and become the property of the Roots of Change Foundation and will not be returned. Please retain a copy for your own records.
- Decisions are final. Only the successful recipient will be notified by the Volunteer Award Coordinator.
- The award may not be granted in any given year.



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INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFEREES

You have been asked to provide a Letter of Reference for the Roots of Change Foundation Father Denis Hébert Volunteer Award. Your letter forms an important part of the candidate's application.

Applicants are expected to have a number of personal and social skills that are necessary in order to make a volunteer's experience in Nicaragua a worthwhile and fulfilling one for all parties.

Please be frank in describing why the applicant would be worthy of this Award.

Reference letters are confidential; therefore; please return your letter to the applicant in a sealed envelope, labeled with your name and the applicant's name. The applicant is responsible for forwarding your letter to the Volunteer Award Coordinator, Roots of Change Foundation.

Applicants have until December 31 to complete the application process. Please ensure that your letter is available before that important date.

Reference letters should be typed, signed and dated. Also, at the top of the letter, please include:

- Name of the applicant
- Your name
- Your phone number
- Your occupation/position
- Your place of work
- Your relationship to the applicant
- If appropriate, the length of time you have known the applicant



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APPLICATION FORM

Personal Information

Last name	First name	Date of birth
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Mailing Address	City, Province	Postal Code
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Telephone (land line/cell)	E-mail
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Extracurricular and Community Service Activities

Applicant Signature

I certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct. I understand that in order to be considered for a Father Denis Hébert Volunteer Award that my application, essay and letters of reference will be forwarded to the Volunteer Award Coordinator. I also agree that Roots of Change Foundation may use my name and Award information in its various publications, website, presentations, and announcements for purposes deemed to be in the Foundation's interests.

Signature

Date



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CANDIDATE'S CHECKLIST

Please note that the following must be included in your application:

- a) Application Form
- b) Your essay
- c) Two (2) Letters of Reference

General Information

1. The Roots of Change Foundation works collaboratively with its legal partner in Nicaragua, FUNDACCO. Father Hébert is a Board member and an advisor to this charitable organization.
2. FUNDACCO, in conjunction with the Foundation's Volunteer Award Coordinator, is prepared to work with the Award recipient in finalizing the volunteer assignment. In addition, FUNDACCO will be responsible for arranging suitable accommodation in the recipient's assignment area. All arrangements will be made so that the volunteer's experiences are as pleasant and practical as possible.
3. The Volunteer Award Coordinator will inform the Award recipient(s) of their responsibilities related to this Award.
4. The Award will be forwarded directly to FUNDACCO by the Foundation. FUNDACCO will administer the disbursement of funds – to a maximum of \$2000 – for costs associated with accommodation and transportation to and from accommodation and volunteer sites in Nicaragua. All other costs are the responsibility of the Award recipient.
5. For additional information related to this Award, please contact the Volunteer Award Coordinator: info@rootsofchange.ca.

Submit the completed application to:

Volunteer Award Coordinator
Roots of Change Foundation
P.O. Box 92
St. Albert, AB T8N 0B8

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST.