

Reference for Nancy Marin

I have recently returned from a 2 month volunteering placement in San Ignacio, where I designed and delivered a 6 week training programme to budding entrepreneurs across Belize.

For the duration of my stay all of the local logistics and on the ground support was handled by Nancy Marin. I cannot thank her enough for all of her endeavours to ensure that this programme ran smoothly. Not only did she help with the ideas behind the contents for the education programme, but she attended all the lessons to act as a local representative and to provide additional context for me around how to apply different learning theories to the Belizean economic environment. She was a local sponsor and very naturally became a mentor to other delegates who attended the programme. She also acted as a conduit between me and the Department of Social Services and she made sure that I had access to all of the equipment and facilities that we needed to deliver a successful initiative.

And if all of that wasn't enough, Nancy also hosted me for the duration of my stay, took me into her home, welcomed me wholeheartedly into her family and was an emotional support for me to call upon whenever I needed.

This programme would not have happened at all, if it had not been for Nancy's intervention, her organisation, local knowledge and contacts. Her commitment to all of the programmes she supports is second to none and she goes above and beyond to ensure that the local community really benefits from the volunteering programmes. And isn't that what we're all here for after all?!

I would highly recommend Nancy Marin as the key point of contact for any Volunteering Placements across Belize. By liaising through her, it will mean that all the volunteers will be in very safe hands, the placements will run smoothly and the organisation of all the logistics will be taken care of. Most importantly, Nancy is a woman of great integrity and purpose, and more than anything, she can be trusted fully to take great care of anyone who is looking to help and offer their services and their time to such ventures overseas.

Finally, education programmes in Belize are desperately needed to help build a foundation for young people who want to take accountability for themselves and to make a valid contribution to their community and to their family. I would highly recommend that academic institutions seriously look at this route to help to deliver against their own internal objectives whilst simultaneously making a tangible difference where it's really needed.

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