

El Salvador

DATE: June 10–30, 2024

COST: \$3600 all-inclusive*

WHERE: Agoura Hills, California (June 10–16) and El Salvador (June 17–30)



Nicole Woods Leader

Nicole is an Occupational Therapist living in Richmond, Virginia. She has 12 years of experience in a variety

of settings including: geriatrics, inpatient and outpatient neurological rehabilitation, custom wheelchair fittings, acute care, outpatient pediatrics, and public schools. She has served with Joni and Friends for four years and is a certified *Beyond Suffering Instructor*.



Danae Rudy Co-Leader

Danae is a teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing in central Virginia. She has been teaching special education for six years

and leads a disability ministry to children, families and individuals affected by disability at her local church. Her passion is to see people with disabilities have access to the Gospel in a way that they can understand and to encourage and support them in using the gifts and talents that God has given them within the local church. Danae served as Global Mission intern with Joni and Friends last year and is co-leading the El Salvador trip this summer.

Interns participating in the El Salvador trip will receive training on the biblical view of disability and a theology of suffering through *Beyond Suffering*, at the Joni and Friends headquarters in Agoura Hills, California. Then, in practical application of their learning, interns will serve people affected by disability through the local church. They will receive hands-on experience joining the Pizza and Game Night at *The Friendship Club*, an adult disability ministry, at The Bridge.

Interns will then travel to El Salvador to serve at a Joni's House and with Joni and Friends partners. Interns will serve in the local church and visit families on Calzada Island where many people affected by disability are facing extraordinary challenges and exclusion from the community.

They will also serve at a Joni and Friends *International Family Retreat*, where they will be able to help families by sharing God's love and offering hope to those who have been impacted by disability. Interns will model inclusion as they serve as buddies to these campers, while their caregivers receive much needed respite. Camp programs consist of small group discussions, arts and crafts, recreation and games, Bible stories, and more!

All interns are granted an opportunity to use their gifts and skillsets to serve their team and people affected by disability. Whether you're majoring in special education, therapy, ministry or are a person with great organizational, photography or writing skills, come ready to unite as a team to bring hope only God can provide for those marginalized within society.

Interns will experience the culture and sights of El Salvador by visiting their local restaurants and shops, exploring beautiful landscapes and beaches, and hiking a volcano!**

Training

- *Beyond Suffering*: Learn about suffering and disability from a biblical and cultural point of view
- Orientation of Joni and Friends ministry
- Receive mentoring which will allow you to use your education and skillsets in the field of disability

Hands-On Ministry

- Work alongside Joni and Friends partners to care for and improve the lives of people in El Salvador
- Serve in churches while getting exposed to needs of people with disabilities in the local community and help them get connected to the local church
- Serve at Joni and Friends *International Family Retreat*
- Work with organizations ministering to people with disabilities

Mentoring

- Be mentored and challenged to implement disability ministry as part of your life calling
- Be disciplined in what it means to be a servant leader

“This trip was transformative, and I am excited to see how The Lord continues to work in this country. I would love to participate in another trip like this.”

Daniela Cotter
Global Mission Intern

**A limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for individuals in need of financial assistance. College credit may also be available depending on the requirements of your university.*

***All associated costs are included in the cost of the internship.*

We are carefully proceeding with this internship with safety protocols in place. If Joni and Friends cancels the event, we will refund or reallocate the donations in accordance with our current policies.