ROMP is an international nonprofit organization with the mission to ensure access to high-quality prosthetic care for underserved people with amputation, making them mobile, independent, and whole.

We operate in Guatemala, Ecuador, and the United States, serving hundreds of patients each year with prosthetic care and community-based rehabilitation services. Volunteer programs play a key role in this effort, helping our local practitioners provide the highest-quality care to our most vulnerable patients and exchanging knowledge and skills with our local staff. If you are a student, resident, or practitioner of prosthetics and orthotics, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physical medicine, engineering, public health, or social work, we invite you to apply to serve through one of our multiple volunteer programs in 2022 and to help us achieve our mission: mobility for all.

“Volunteer programs deliver quality prosthetic care to our patients, create meaningful opportunities for our staff’s professional growth, provide unforgettable experiences for our volunteers, and strengthen human bonds between countless individuals across international borders.”

- David Krupa, ROMP Founder and Executive Director

ROMP 2022 Volunteer Programs

1–10 April
Clinical Volunteer Program
Guatemala

20–29 May
Innovation Volunteer Program
Colorado State University only
Ecuador

29 June – 6 July
Clinical Volunteer Program
Guatemala

8–17 July
Clinical Volunteer Program
Ecuador

2–11 September
Clinical Volunteer Program
Loma Linda University only
Ecuador

14–23 October
Clinical Volunteer Program
Guatemala
**ROMP Guatemala**

All year round, ROMP operates the largest prosthetics clinic in the country of Guatemala. The permanent clinic is locally-staffed and stocked with all of the components, materials, and tools needed to provide high-quality prosthetic care to patients with all levels of amputation. ROMP also provides care at several satellite locations throughout rural Guatemala and operates a community-based rehabilitation (CBR) program to address its patients’ full range of needs in their communities.

**Volunteer through a 2022 volunteer program in Guatemala**

**Update from Zacapa – Running Towards Mobility**

ROMP firmly believes in providing the highest quality of care to all patients, regardless of their socioeconomic status. In special collaboration with long-time supporter and volunteer, David Rotter, CPO, ROMP is able to provide running prostheses to our patients. At our 2021 October Guatemala Volunteer Program, Dave worked with our volunteers to help Candelaria and Sheidy, two 17-year old cancer survivors, run for the first time since their amputations. Dave will be leading the 2022 October Volunteer Program in Guatemala where you will have the opportunity to learn from him first-hand. We are lucky to have his advanced prosthetics knowledge!

**ROMP Ecuador**

Through public and private partnerships, ROMP operates volunteer programs and mobile clinics throughout the year to provide high-quality prosthetic care to Ecuadorians with amputation. It also works with academic, nonprofit, and private innovators to develop and pilot the next generation of prosthetic technologies, and conducts climbs in the Andes Mountains to promote human mobility.

**Check out the 2022 innovation and clinical volunteer programs in Ecuador**

In 2021, ROMP traveled to the remote province of Morona-Santiago, deep in the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Over the course of two trips, they evaluated more than 75 patients in desperate need of prosthetic care. Now, the team has the opportunity to expand ROMP’s presence beyond Quito to the indigenous populations of Ecuador, bringing prosthetic care to the most marginalized amputees in the world. Through ROMP’s new strategic plan, the team will begin laying the foundation for an expansion into the Amazon with new opportunities for volunteer programs. Stay tuned!

**United States**

**Update from the US – Tracking Component Donations with QR Codes**

Components for a Cause (C4C) is ROMP’s nationwide component recycling program through which clinics donate new and gently-used componentry for use in Guatemala and Ecuador. ROMP is now using a QR code system that allows us to inform clinics which patients receive their components.

**Enroll as a C4C site today and share mobility from your clinic**
ROMP Clinical Volunteer Program

For Students, Faculty, and Practitioners of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Physical and Occupational Therapy

This program gives volunteers the opportunity to work alongside ROMP-Guatemala staff to provide care to Guatemalans with amputation and to exchange best-practices in prosthetic care and physical and occupational therapy. Volunteers will put their skills into action, taking a group of patients from evaluation and casting to delivery and training in an intense clinical week in Zacapa. They impact both patients and staff, and walk away with a greater understanding of the issues facing people with amputation in Guatemala.

Overview

Volunteers will arrive at the Guatemala City airport and will be shuttled together to Hotel Atlantico in Santa Cruz via private bus. Each day volunteers and ROMP Global staff will travel from the Hotel to the clinic via private shuttle.

Volunteers will meet ROMP Guatemala staff and receive a tour of the clinic. The first two days of the clinical week will focus on evaluating, casting, modifying, and providing therapy to patients. The next two days will focus on continued modifying and fabrication, and the final two days will focus on delivering, training, and providing therapy to patients. There will be an end-of-week event to recognize the achievements of the clinical week.

Each day, a Lunch & Learn is given to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills, and ideas between local staff and international volunteers. Volunteers are welcome to lead a Lunch & Learn - let us know if you are interested! Frequent topics include:

- Clinical techniques and case studies
- Community-based rehabilitation
- Guatemalan public health system
- Personal experiences with amputation
- ROMP advocacy and continued involvement

Following the clinical week of the program, the group will have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful country and culture of Guatemala through a weekend excursion to the city of Antigua, Guatemala. Volunteers will be shuttled to the airport on time for their flight out of Guatemala.

“I learned so much from the outstanding ROMP staff in Guatemala and from all the volunteers. To witness and be a part of so many patients coming in the clinic with crutches and leaving with a prosthesis is something I will never forget. Thank you ROMP for all that you do. I cannot wait to come back!”

- Jim Storms, CPO, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
“I am in awe of the work that ROMP does and even more astonished by the patience, dedication, and perseverance of the amputees in Guatemala. Working alongside compassionate volunteers with similar missions to enable amputees through prostheses was a life changing experience for me. I am honored and proud to be a part of the ROMP family.”

– Whitney Lai, Senior Virtual Reality Clinical Engineer, Surgical Theater
Make the Most Out of Unused Components

ROMP is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to providing prosthetic care to those without access to this service. Gently used prosthetic components have tremendous value for patients in need. We are currently accepting the following types of donations.

- Feet
- Liners
- Knees
- Supplies
- Socks
- Modular components
- Entire prostheses

How You Can Help

Collect items that have accumulated in your storeroom / that are not billable, or set up a collection bin in your office.

Securely box up items for shipping to ROMP headquarters.

Request your free UPS shipping label on the C4C website or by emailing C4C@rompglobal.org.

Visit rompglobal.org/components-for-a-cause to enroll as a C4C site today and to request UPS shipping labels. Your company logo will be added to the ROMP website as a C4C partner.

“there is great inequality in the worldwide distribution of prosthetic components. together, we can fix that. C4C turns prosthetic waste into mobility for those in need. i’m proud to be an ambassador for this program!”

– rebecca cook, CPO, hanger clinic

Purchase Products Made by ROMP Patients

ROMP provides prosthetic care to people with amputation facing barriers to access in the Western Hemisphere. In Guatemala, ROMP provides prosthetic care year round to access-limited patients. But a prosthesis alone is not enough to bring someone back from an amputation. ROMP provides a wide range of support to patients, in their homes and communities. As part of our program, we help patients learn a new trade, start a business, and sell their product. Every purchase through patient products by romp keeps these patients on the road to recovery, and helps romp empower more patients through mobility in guatemala.

Click here to purchase Patient Products
ROMP Innovation Program

For Students, Faculty, and Professionals in Engineering and Design

This program gives volunteers the opportunity to assess needs for innovation in prosthetic technology and care delivery, while assisting ROMP-Ecuador and other partner practitioners in delivering prosthetic care and physical therapy to Ecuadorians with amputation who face barriers to this human right. The unparalleled access to patients and practitioners in an access-limited setting, as well as the expert coaching by ROMP staff, will prepare students to develop user-centered technologies in senior design projects and beyond. Prototypes may be piloted with ROMP patients in Ecuador and Guatemala as the volunteers develop their ideas.

Overview

Volunteers will arrive at the Quito airport and will be shuttled together to Hotel Selina via private shuttle. Prior to the clinical week of the program, the group will have the opportunity to enjoy the stunning scenery and fascinating culture of Ecuador. Volunteers will have a day tour in the bustling city of Quito to visit main landmarks and tourist attractions, as well as a retreat to Ecuador’s rainforest or Andean Highlands.

Following the cultural excursions, volunteers and ROMP Ecuador staff will enjoy a 15-minute walk each day from the Hotel to ROMP’s Clinic where this program is based. Volunteers will meet ROMP Ecuador and partner staff, and receive a tour of the clinical facility. The first day in the clinic will focus on evaluating and casting patients, as well as providing pre-prosthetic physical. The next four days will focus on modifying, fabrication, and assembly, as well as delivery, training, and providing therapy to patients. There will be an end-of-week delivery activity to acknowledge the achievements of the clinical week.

Each day, a special lecture will be given to share the knowledge and experience of expert ROMP innovators with students. Key topics include:

- Key Clinical Techniques and Case Studies
- Design Thinking Tools
- Materials and Manufacturing
- Sustainability and Recycling
- Business modeling
- High-Performance Technology

Following the clinical week of the program, volunteers will have a day-long shopping tour in PACARI (local cacao producers) and the Artisan Market in Quito. Volunteers will be shuttled to the airport on time for their flight out of Ecuador.

“I have struggled in the past with how far removed my work was from that human impact. In Ecuador I was working directly with patients, creating prosthetics for them, and getting to connect and share stories and experience. That connection is what has drawn me to this field and made me realize this is the direction I now want to be heading in.”

– Kalaina Stroyan, undergraduate student in Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, Colorado State University
Itinerary
The agenda for this program is the following:

Day 1: Arrival to Quito
Day 2: Day long tour of Quito & historical landmarks
Day 3: Retreat in Ecuador’s rainforest or Andean Highlands
Day 4: Welcome; Patient Evaluations and Castings; Physical/Occupational Therapy
Day 5-6: Modification, Fabrication, and Assembly of Devices
Day 7-8: Fitting, gait training, and continued assembly of prostheses; Physical/Occupational Therapy; Closing Delivery Activity
Day 9: Day-long shopping tour in PACARI (local cacao producers) and Artisan Market in Quito.
Day 10: Departure from Quito

Program Dates
May 20–29, 2022 Colorado State University

Accommodations and Ground Transportation
Hotel Selina
Diego de Almagro, Quito 170143, Ecuador 170143
(+593) 962 933 707
www.selina.com/es/ecuador/quito/

All weekend excursion site lodging is made at sites verified by ROMP Global.
All in-country ground transportation is made in private shuttle arranged by ROMP Global.

Apply online today

“The experience that ROMP provided for our students, even as our university and Ecuador struggled with the pandemic, was amazing in so many ways. Not the least of which was how ROMP responded to the challenges of changing policies to creatively improvise a pop-up clinic, which was a huge success and created an open and collaborative environment where we could see the physical successes and joy of all the patients ROMP served in the beautiful outdoor space were we worked for a week.”

Dr. Kevin Lear,
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
Colorado State University
ROMP Clinical Volunteer Program

For Students, Faculty, and Practitioners of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Physical and Occupational Therapy

This program gives volunteers the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with practitioners from ROMP and partner clinics to provide world-class prosthetic care and physical and occupational therapy to Ecuadorians with amputation who otherwise do not have access to these services. Volunteers will serve through an intense clinical week working alongside ROMP Ecuador. They will play a key role in remobilizing Ecuadorian patients and exchanging knowledge and skills with local practitioners.

Overview

Volunteers will arrive at the Quito airport and will be shuttled together to Hotel Selina via private shuttle. Prior to the clinical week of the program, the group will have the opportunity to enjoy the stunning scenery and fascinating culture of Ecuador. Volunteers will have a day tour in the bustling city of Quito to visit main landmarks and tourist attractions, as well as a retreat to Ecuador’s rainforest or Andean Highlands.

Following the cultural excursions, volunteers and ROMP Ecuador staff will enjoy a 15-minute walk each day from the Hotel to ROMP’s Clinic where this program is based. Volunteers will meet ROMP Ecuador and partner staff, and receive a tour of the clinical facility. The first day in the clinic will focus on evaluating and casting patients, as well as providing pre-prosthetic physical. The next four days will focus on modifying, fabrication, and assembly, as well as delivery, training, and providing therapy to patients. There will be an end-of-week delivery activity to acknowledge the achievements of the clinical week.

Each day, a Lunch & Learn is given to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills, and ideas between local staff and international volunteers. Volunteers are welcome to lead a Lunch & Learn! Frequent topics include:

- Clinical Techniques and Case Studies
- Community-based Rehabilitation
- Product Development and Testing
- Personal Experiences with Amputation
- ROMP Advocacy and Continued Involvement

Following the clinical week of the program, volunteers will have a day-long shopping tour in PACARI (local cacao producers) and the Artisan Market in Quito. Volunteers will be shuttled to the airport on time for their flight out of Ecuador.

“My ROMP Ecuador trip gave me the confidence to use my prosthetic training as well as the opportunity to collaborate with other practitioners and work in a team to provide quality care to some of the most gracious and motivated patients I have ever served. But, more than that, ROMP reminded me of my ‘why,’ the reason I was drawn to prosthetic care in the first place: to be one small part of creating a more accessible world for all people, everywhere. Being the first group to go back since the start of COVID was the cherry on top.”

– Basya Wuensch-Reuter, Northwestern University MPO ‘21
Itinerary

The agenda for this program is the following:

Day 1: Arrival to Quito
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Day 4: Welcome; Patient Evaluations and Castings; Physical/Occupational Therapy
Day 5-6: Modification, Fabrication, and Assembly of Devices
Day 7-8: Fitting, gait training, and continued assembly of prostheses; Physical/Occupational Therapy; Closing Delivery Activity
Day 9: Day-long shopping tour in PACARI (local cacao producers) and Artisan Market in Quito.
Day 10: Departure from Quito

Program Dates

July 8–17, 2022 Open enrollment
September 2–11, 2022 Loma Linda University only

Cost

The program fee is $1,600 per volunteer, and includes all in-country ground transportation, food, and lodging in Ecuador. Volunteers are invited to use Classy to fundraise with family, friends, and colleagues.

Accommodations and Ground Transportation

Hotel Selina
Diego de Almagro, Quito 170143, Ecuador 170143
(+593) 962 933 707
www.selina.com/es/ecuador/quito/

All weekend excursion site lodging is made at sites verified by ROMP Global.

All in-country ground transportation is made in private shuttle arranged by ROMP Global.

Apply online today

“Volunteering with ROMP in Ecuador was so inspiring and affirmed my decision to pursue a Master’s in Prosthetics & Orthotics. I love that this career field is fueled by passion and a desire to restore people's freedom through mobility. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to experience this life-changing trip with my team!”

–Anna Coney, undergraduate student, Health & Science Exercise, Colorado State University
Enrollment is easy! **Click to get started**

What is the process of signing-up and preparing for a program?
Once you have selected a program, please complete the online application at this link. We will review your application and if you are selected, we will send you a link to Classy where you will register with a $100 deposit, which counts towards your total program fee and formally enrolls you in the program. From that point forward you can use your Classy campaign to fundraise. You will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to prepare for your trip. One month before your trip, you will receive an invitation to a pre-departure call during which we discuss the final details of your trip and answer any questions you might have.

How does my program fee work?
ROMP charges all volunteers a program fee of $1,600, which covers all in-country transportation, lodging, food, components, and operating costs. Through Classy, you can create a campaign to fundraise for the cost of your program. Invite your family, friends, and colleagues to make a tax-deductible donation through your Classy campaign or by mailing a check to ROMP at the address below. You can fundraise through your Classy campaign until one week prior to your departure date, at which point you will need to pay the remaining balance. Any amount raised beyond the program fee will be donated to ROMP to help more patients.

If you chose not to fundraise via Classy, the first half of your program fee is due two months prior to your program departure date, and the remaining half is due one week prior to departure. You can make this payment via credit card or by check to Range of Motion Project at the address below. Please make sure that all checks for your program fee list your name in the memo line.

Range of Motion Project, NFP
PO Box 100915
Denver, CO, 80250

How do my flights for my program work?
You are responsible for purchasing your own round-trip airfare for your program. For all Guatemala programs, you should arrive to Guatemala City La Aurora International Airport (GUA) by 2 pm on the first day of your program, and you can leave the same airport anytime on the last day of your program. For all Ecuador programs, you should arrive to Quito Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO) by 11:30 pm on the first day of your program, and you can leave the same airport any time on the last day of your program.

What tools, materials, or components should I bring?
Volunteers are welcome to bring their own tools if they desire, but all programs are fully-equipped in-country with the necessary tools, materials, and components. Each volunteer will be asked to carry a small load of components in their luggage for use in the program. **We encourage volunteers to ask the ticketing agent if the airline will waive the baggage fee for their components considering that they are for a humanitarian cause.** If they do not, ROMP will reimburse volunteers for the cost of one standard checked bag. Please remember to stay within airline baggage weight restrictions as overweight bags incur a significant cost.
What should I pack?
Volunteers should pack comfortable, casual clothing for use in the clinical activities - scrubs and/or t-shirts are welcome, closed-toed shoes are a must. For all Ecuador programs, volunteers should pack some clothes for cool mornings and evenings, and for all Guatemala programs volunteers should pack clothes for heat. Bring a swimsuit and flip flops, as well as an outfit to go-out in the excursion part of the trip. Volunteers should bring sunscreen, bug spray, and any medicines they need for the duration of the program. We recommend that you do not bring large amounts of cash but instead withdrawal cash from ATMs in-country, as needed.

What happens if I have to cancel my trip?
In the case that you can no longer serve in the program in which you have enrolled, you should inform us via an email to volunteerprograms@rompglobal.org If you wish to change to a future program, we will send you a note of credit that counts towards that program fee. If you do not wish to serve in a future program, we can reimburse any check payment that has been made up to one month before departure date. The $100 enrollment deposit is non-refunded. Donor contributions are non-refundable if smaller than $100.

What impact does COVID-19 have?
ROMP has put safety protocols in place in all of our locations, including; PPE, mask mandates, sanitation protocols, and limiting number of people in the clinic. Our volunteer programs will have a smaller number of people to minimize exposure and risk. We will also encourage social distancing via single rooms when possible. We ask our patients and staff to all wear masks and we will expect volunteers to wear masks as well. For more COVID FAQ's visit our website.

“Volunteering with ROMP Guatemala was the best decision I’ve ever made. As a resident, I got to be hands-on with the patients and the entire fabrication process. I learned from amazing clinical staff in Zacapa and the other volunteers, all with unique skills to contribute. The patients’ resilience, positivity, and motivation were infectious, and they reminded me exactly why I joined this field and continue to show up every single day.”

– Annie Gibbs, ATC, OP Resident, Baylor College of Medicine
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