



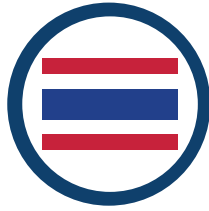
# The Cardoner Network



## THAILAND IN-COMMUNITY

Huay Tong, Chiang Mai Province

Xavier Learning Community, Chiang Rai Province



## The Cardoner Network

# THAILAND

### HISTORY OF OUR WORK

The history of Cardoner volunteers serving in Northern Thailand began in 2011 with the first placements to the village of Huay Tong in Chiang Mai province. In 2018 our presence expanded to Chiang Rai province to assist at the newly established Xavier Learning Community (XLC), a tertiary education facility primarily for rural students.

Our partner communities are predominantly made up of peoples from the ethnic minorities of Northern Thailand, who tend to be marginalised in terms of educational and employment opportunities. Volunteers in Huay Tong work at schools that are often underfunded and understaffed and need volunteers to provide curriculum-level English classes.

The Huay Tong base for volunteers in Chiang Mai province is the home of our main in-country partner, Maliwan Kasetasukchai. Maliwan hosts volunteers with her family in Huay Tong, and oversees others in regional placements. Across these locations volunteers assist with English and Maths teaching at 12 schools. Each placement varies greatly; in some, volunteers live adjacent to students in a dormitory, while in others they service remote schools in largely inaccessible regions, commuting from the Huay Tong base.

The work and impact of our volunteers was noted by Fr Vinai Boonlue SJ, Maliwan's brother. Fr Vinai was a key leader in the establishment of XLC, and is a huge advocate for the work of our volunteer teachers. He has seen great outcomes from the volunteers assistance in developing students' confidence in spoken English, a skill that greatly enhances their employability. Our volunteers started serving at XLC in 2018, and also extend themselves to assist at local primary schools.

Volunteers at all locations become active participants in their new community. Spare time is often spent helping with rice harvesting, building houses, tutoring, playing sport and other such community activities.

Thailand receives the most volunteers of all countries we work with and alumni have continued to support the communities with regular fundraising and return visits.



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# Our Partner Schools

## Huay Tong Area Schools

Huay Tong is considered 'home base' for volunteers in the Chiang Mai area as is the home of Maliwan and her family, who look after the welfare of all volunteers in the region. Maliwan hosts up to 8 volunteers in a communal residence attached to her house, and manages up to 10 more in 4 other regional locations. There is a minimum of 2 volunteers placed in any partner community, and in each there is a local contact with good English skills to take care of the volunteers. Those based further afield are able to visit Huay Tong on weekends and holidays, connecting them with the rest of the volunteer cohort.

Our volunteers based in Huay Tong assist at 7 nearby schools, with most volunteers splitting their teaching week between 2 schools.

**Huay Tong:** Huay Tong is the local village school, adjacent to the volunteer house. Grades range from Kindergarten to Year 9. Most of the students in the primary school are local villagers, but the students in year 7 to year 9 come from a large number of surrounding villages, as most regional schools lack secondary classes.

**Huay Khao lip:** Huay Khao lip is a relatively large primary school located 10 minutes from Huay Tong. Its students come from the namesake village, and from one of the significantly poorer villages in the area, Pong Sa Mit.

**Nong Tao:** Nong Tao is a mid-sized primary school which currently has only one English teacher. Nong Tao is located just a 10 minute motorbike ride away from Huay Tong. Nong Tao also has a Baptist dormitory to accommodate a large number of students from different villages who attend Nong Tao school, Volunteers often spend nights staying at school to tutor the dormitory students.

**Thung Luang:** Thung Luang is a very small government school across the mountain from Huay Tong. With a modest student population, the teachers devote plenty of time to extracurricular pursuits. Generous attention shown to both students and teachers is encouraged and rewarded.

**Mowakhi:** Mowakhi is a small, non-government school in an isolated area. The village is steeped in Karen culture, being physically and socially detached from Thai society. Mowakhi receives no government funding and therefore is deeply in need of support in the classroom. Despite its seclusion and lack of resources, the students are bright and hardworking.

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**Don Nam:** Don Nam is a primary school comprised of Hmong and Karen students, located 15 minutes from Huay Tong.

**Mae Hae:** Mae Hae is the largest school in the area, ranging from pre-school to Year 12. Mae Hae is culturally diverse with students of Thai-Yai, Hmong, Karen and Burmese origin. Mae Hae boasts a large teaching staff and a well-developed campus, and is a regional hub.

## **Ban Kad**

Ban Kad is a bustling suburban town of roughly 5,500 people of different ethnic minorities. The town is situated approximately 40 minutes from Huay Tong and one hour from Chiang Mai city by songthaew (share taxi/mini bus). The proximity to Huay Tong makes it easy for volunteers to return on weekends.

Volunteers assist at Ban Kad secondary school with the opportunity to spend one day of the school week at a nearby primary school. Attached to the school is a dormitory for up to 30 students and the location of our volunteers' weekday home. The dorm is a short 5-10 minute walk from the school. Volunteers will teach primarily Year 9-12 students under the guidance of English teachers. Each night of the school week, volunteers will run an hour long tutoring session for the students of the dormitory, with whom they form close bonds.

## **Din Khao**

Din Khao is a Karen village in Mae Chaem district, several hours' drive from Huay Tong. The mountainous geography of the location makes it relatively remote - but the hugely welcoming community means our volunteers never feel isolated. Life for volunteers in Din Khao is intimately connected to the life of the village and school.

Our volunteers become part of the community surrounding St Joseph's Mae Chaem School. The school was established in 2008 by the sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. The school is a kindergarten to Grade 9 boarding school for local area children with almost 400 students. Our volunteers are provided a house in the village, close to the school, the convent, and teachers' homes.

## **Mae Toh**

Mae Toh is a Karen Village approximately 50 minutes away from Huay Tong by motorcycle. It is a Baptist community and volunteers live in the dormitory nearby the school, cooking, playing and living with 20 students. Volunteers in Mae Toh can choose to spend their weekends in the village, visiting the villages/homes of their students or joining the other volunteers in Huay Tong.

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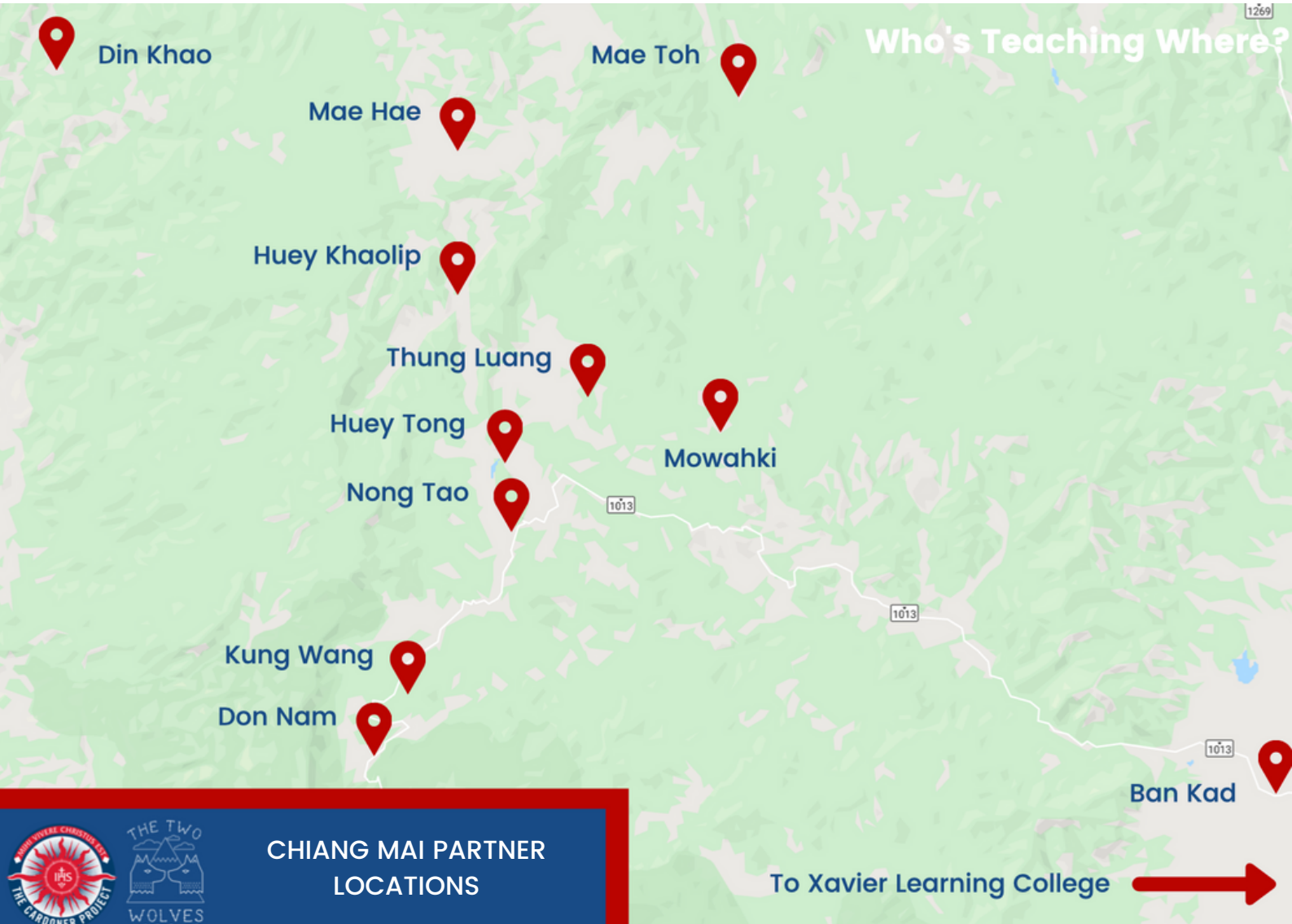
Din Khao



Mae Toh



Thung Luang



Mowahki



Huay Tong



Ban Kad

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## XAVIER LEARNING COMMUNITY

Located near the Golden Triangle, Xavier Learning Community (XLC) empowers young people from ethnic minorities through tertiary education.

XLC is a residential tertiary institution established by the Jesuits in 2017, the first educational project of the Jesuit Foundation for Education in Thailand. It is located in Mae Chan District in Chiang Rai Province, less than 20 minutes from the Golden Triangle. Chiang Rai was designated as one of Thailand's Specific Economic Zones, a government initiative launched in 2015, given its potential to serve as the logistics hub for the greater Mekong sub-region.

The Jesuits in Thailand recognised the need to provide an educational opportunity for the young people of the area, in particular to the young people of the many marginalised ethnic minority groups, known as "Hill Tribes". XLC aims to equip the students with the skills and knowledge to participate in and support the economic potential of the region. The Community is committed to forming men and women to become leaders of integrity, working for and with others, and to reach their full potential based on the Jesuit tradition.

In partnership with Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, XLC offers the students a four-year study program that culminates in a Bachelor's Degree in English.

Our volunteers live at the boarding school. They assist with teaching during the day, either at XLC or at a local primary school. During the evenings they conduct tutoring sessions for the students and join in with co-curricular activities.



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## Teaching in Thailand

These are some key principles we ask our volunteers to adopt in their approach to participation with our partner school communities:

- be good examples for students i.e. dressing properly, speaking politely and behaving accordingly
- Spend as much time at school as possible - be on time for morning and afternoon assembly, and, when possible, stay back after class. School is often the primary gathering place for students in the village, and spending time there is a great way to deepen your connection with the community
- be on time and effective at work so that their tasks may go well
- respect differences in languages, cultures, and opinions
- participate in important activities organised by schools and communities such as mass, morning gatherings, celebrations, camps, and so on
- live in simplicity like the students and teachers without displaying excessive wealth or technology
- suggest, help and be good role models for students in holistic formation: being deep in faith, learning and dedicating oneself to the community or society.



*Din Khao*

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## Becoming part of your Community

Becoming an active part of the communities you are serving is one of the most treasured memories of our volunteers.



*Din Khao*

During a school week most schools will have lots of after-school activities, soccer being particularly popular. Volunteers will usually stay to have some fun with the students and teachers, building relationships outside of the classroom. You might also want to tutor Maths or English to some particularly keen students.

In most placements there will be a mass about 30 minutes after sunset which volunteers are also encouraged to attend. Mass attendance is as much about being present in the community as it is about exercising faith.

Volunteers at all locations become active participants in their new community. Spare time is often spent helping with harvesting, building houses, tutoring and other such community activities.



*Mae Toh*

Farming is always good fun. The Karen people have a long tradition of crop rotation, and most families own a plot of land which they use for agriculture. Twice a year, the annual rice planting & harvest take place, and village life shifts to long days in the field. Previous volunteers recommend 'getting on the grind with the locals' as a great way to bond and make friends, as well as help people who depend on farming for their own food and to put their kids through school.



*Huay Bong*

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## FORMATION AND PASTORAL CARE

The Cardoner Network's mission is to deepen the human, spiritual and intellectual formation of young adults, grounding them in a love of the marginalised in the service of the Church. The In-Community programme seeks to do this by working with developing communities and vulnerable populations to empower them and bring hope for a better world.

Each In-Community placement is a journey, beginning with a formation retreat which gives volunteers tools in the Ignation tradition, enabling them to discover who they are in relation to other people and the divine. Through the practise of Examen, their placements provide an opportunity to see that God is alive and active in the world and they are called to play an active part.

Throughout their placements, volunteers are supported by a network of Jesuits, Catholic religious orders, their host communities and the The Cardoner Network In-Community team. Following on from the pre-departure formation, Examens, and mid-year retreats for some, the debrief on their return helps volunteers not only to make sense of the experience they have had but determine how they will play an active role in Australian society.



# The Application and Pre-Departure Process

## Application

To get started with your participation in an In-Community placement, you need to complete an application so we can understand what is driving you to make this commitment, what you want to get out of the experience, your openness to other people and culture and, most importantly, what you want to contribute to your host community.

## Interview

Interviews will be conducted by our experienced team members, including people who have served In-Community. This gives us the chance to get to know you more personally and opens a dialogue that will help us ensure that the placement location and role is suitable for you. If the interview is satisfactory, we'll follow up with two reference checks with non-family members who have known you for more than 12 months to ensure you are suitable for the programme.

## Letter of Acceptance

If successful you will be sent a letter of acceptance welcoming you into the In-Community Programme. The letter will also give you the schedule for the formation and information sessions that you will need to attend to prepare yourself for your In-Community experience.



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# Pre-Departure Formation and Training

## Spiritual

How to teach  
English as a  
second language

Develop your  
understanding of why you  
are involved and what  
you want to give

How to create lessons plans,  
and learning activities

Develop an  
understanding of Ignatian  
Spirituality

Language and culture of your  
placement community with tips  
from In-Community alumni

Develop relationships  
with other volunteers

Risk management, health and safety,,  
and child protection

Mental  
health  
strategies

Trauma responsive volunteering

## Practical

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# Volunteer Risk Mitigation

Going overseas brings with it inherent risk, so we do everything we can to mitigate this risk for your safety and that of others.

## Training

During the pre-departure training we workshop how to identify and mitigate risks to physical and mental wellbeing and give real examples of scenarios likely to occur. How, when and to whom to report an incident is also covered.

## Orientation

On arrival you will receive a thorough orientation from your placement hosts including culture, language, placement set-up and rules, transport, local medical facilities, getting a local SIM card and all other information you need to ensure you settle in quickly and safely.

## Action Plans

TCN conducts regular risk assessments on the placement locations and our partner communities.

On arrival at your placement you should complete a Personal Safety and Security Plan based on your pre-departure training and the orientation session so that you are ready for any situation. This will also help you to identify any questions you may have as to your safety and comfort at your placement.

## Host Community Communication

We maintain consistent contact with our local partners to stay informed of the circumstances in the location so that we can best manage volunteers safety and wellbeing.

## International Alerts

To compliment our dialogue with our partners in country we monitor notifications and alerts from relevant government organisations, in particular Smarttraveller and DFAT, for up-to-date information on any situations that may impact partner locations.

## Communication Channels

All steps are taken to ensure communication channels between staff, hosts and volunteers are open, honest and transparent. This includes ensuring all volunteers have access to a phone and local SIM on arrival and throughout their placement.

Your hosts provide you with constant and immediate support throughout your stay. Additionally, the TCN In-Community team will be checking in with you regularly throughout your placement and is available for 24-hour support.



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# Health and Safety

It is essential that all our volunteers have a comprehensive understanding of their personal health and safety.

## Medical Requirements

Volunteers are required to check with their health practitioner that they are medically fit to undertake their placement. This consultation should include advice on all required vaccinations. Please note that some vaccinations have a dosage schedule so you should consult your doctor at least 3 months ahead of departure. If a volunteer is on regular medication they should ensure that they have access to supplies for the duration of their placement. It is recommended that volunteers take a well-equipped first aid kit.

## Travel Insurance

All volunteers going overseas must have comprehensive travel insurance including cover for motorcycle riding and emergency evacuation. We have a partnership with AIG to provide travel insurance for up to 6 months for \$200. Quotes for longer policies can be requested.

## Dietary Requirements

To provide you the best assistance possible, you are asked to advise us of any dietary requirements as early as possible in the application process. We will liaise with your host community ahead of time to ensure your requirements can be met.

## Training and Preparation

In the practical component of our pre-departure formation programme, you will undergo a variety of seminars, activities and role-playing scenarios to better understand how you can stay healthy and safe while you are on placement. This includes understanding the local culture, being aware of common safety risks and how to navigate them, building relationships, hygiene, diet, exercise and vaccinations.

We also focus on mental health to ensure you are ready for the challenges ahead and have practical advice to ensure you maintain a positive mindset.

## Local Support

Through your hosts on the ground, you will have access to the best level of health care that is immediately available. Your hosts will also provide support in many other ways, helping you to settle in and become part of their community.

There is an Australian Consulate office in Chiang Mai.

*Mae Hae*



# What is included in the cost?

What your program fees cover.

## Retreats and Training

Our pre-departure, in-country and debrief retreats allow volunteers to form a better understanding of their own service and Ignation spirituality. They also allow volunteers to develop relationships with those they are serving with and prepare them for challenges during their placement. Training includes teaching, risk, culture and language preparation.

## Food and Accommodation

All placements include food and accommodation.

## Visa and Work Permit

While the cost of your Visa and work Permit is not included, TCN will advise and support you in the application process. We contract a local lawyer in Chiang Mai to assist with the work permit and visa renewal processes.

## Extras

All volunteers receive a Two Wolves Abroad hoodie, T-shirt and beanie.

## Pastoral Care

Volunteers have a large support network while on their In-Community placement. The local hosts and community, including fellow volunteers provide the day-to-day support. It is a TCN policy that all volunteers be placed with at least one other volunteer. The TCN team in Sydney has regular check-ins with volunteers to make sure all is well. We also consult the community hosts for their perspective on how the volunteers are faring.

## Transport

Volunteers are met at the airport and taken to their placement community. Many volunteers live on campus so are able to walk to their various activities. Motorbikes and helmets are provided for volunteers who are working in more remote areas where motorbikes are needed to travel to schools. There are local and regional buses should volunteers wish to travel further afield.



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# What is not included?

What extra expenses to expect.

## Visas and Work Permits

You will need to pay for your Thai Visa and any visa extensions you may require. You will need to pay for a work permit. TCN will assist with the Visa and work permit application process.

## Flights

You are responsible for the cost of domestic and international flights to and from your placement. TCN has the services of a travel agent who can facilitate your travel itinerary should you choose to use their services.

## Vaccinations & Medications

The Cardoner Network does not offer medical advice. You are required to seek advice from your doctor prior to travel regarding any recommended vaccinations, health management protocols and supplies you should have in place for your personal health and wellbeing. If you are on a regular course of medication it is your responsibility to ensure that you have supplies of the medication for the duration of your stay.

## SIM Card

You will need to buy a local SIM data card to ensure you are contactable at all times. Your hosts will assist with this purchase on your arrival. Broadband and WiFi connections throughout Thailand are excellent.

## Entertainment

You will want to have some discretionary spending money for buying occasional treats or going out. Eating out is a great way to explore and build community. You will find that your hosts are very generous and we ask that you take care not to take advantage of their generosity. How much to take depends entirely on how often you engage in outside activities or treat yourself.

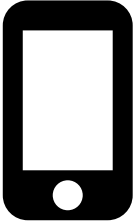
## Personal travel & leisure expenses

You are welcome to travel during leisure time and school breaks, however we ask that you check with your hosts in case your assistance is required for other service activities that have been organised for the this time. You must provide your hosts and TCN with any travel plans and ensure that you are contactable at all times.

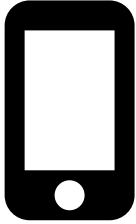
You may also wish to travel at the end of your placement. We ask that you advise us and check that your insurance cover will be in place for any extended time spent away and countries visited.

You are responsible for ensuring that any activities undertaken during your leisure time or post your placement period do not place you at any risk of harm and understand that such activities are outside of the ambit of your volunteer placement. Expenses related to leisure and post placement activities are at your own cost.





# Contacts



Who you need to talk to

## Jane Brennan

THE TWO WOLVES ABROAD MANAGER

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

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XLC

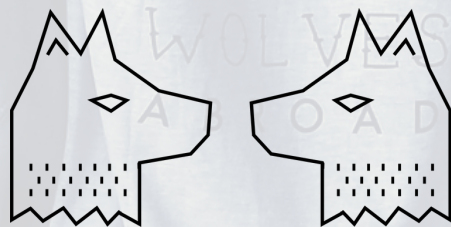




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# The Two Wolves Volunteer Corps

The Two Wolves Volunteer Corp name uses the reference to "The Two Wolves" often used in The Cardoner Network programmes. The Two Wolves refers to the family crest of Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), the founder of The Society of Jesus, which shows two wolves over a cooking pot. The symbol is word play, in that the wolves (lobo) combine with the kettle (olla) in Spanish to form lobo y olla (the wolf and the pot) which contracted into Loyola. The kettle also commemorates the House of Loyola's reputation for generosity which allowed both the community and wolves to eat well. It is this generosity that inspired Ignatius to search for more than honour or riches could provide. He set out on a spiritual journey to find God and found it in the service of others.



THE TWO  
WOLVES  
ABROAD

THE TWO  
WOLVES  
ABROAD

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# Professional Standards



The Cardoner Network is an operation of the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus. In line with this association we are committed to creating a safe environment for all people involved in our work.

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

To learn more about the Society's commitment to safeguarding children and young people, you can find the statement here:

<https://jesuit.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Statement-of-Commitment-Online-Version-Province.pdf>

## Partnerships

### COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SAFER PRACTICE

The Australian Province of the Society of Jesus is in partnership with the Australian Childhood Foundation, an independent organisation, which includes participation in their Safeguarding Children Program.

## The Broader Catholic Church

### CO-ORDINATED COMMITMENT TO CO-OPERATION, OPENNESS, FULL DISCLOSURE AND JUSTICE

The Truth, Justice and Healing Council take prime responsibility for this co-ordination.

The principals and procedures that are driving the Catholic Church's work towards more just and compassionate operations can be found in the following documents:

- Towards Healing
- Integrity in the Service of the Church
- Integrity in Ministry

These can be accessed here:

<https://jesuit.org.au/professional-standards/professional-standards/>

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## Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young People

All volunteers and staff undergo a mandatory Working With Children Check according to Australian Government standards. They must also read and agree to abide by both the The Cardoner Network and Australian Jesuit Codes of Conduct.

Before departing, volunteers receive training in child protection, safeguarding vulnerable people and human trafficking. They are guided on expected behaviours, how to identify problems and how to report them should they have a concern.

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# UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES

A horizon, a point of reference to the whole Society of Jesus, these preferences transcend cultural bounds to unite us with Jesuit missions worldwide. The preferences are four areas vital for our world today. As an organisation of The Society of Jesus, The Cardoner Project seeks to fulfil these preferences as part of our programs.



Our volunteer formation program centres on discernment. Discernment is the ability to sift through the myriad of desires, urges and feelings within us to determine that which brings us true consolation and takes us to where we need to go.



Our core belief is that the dignity of each individual is infallible and must be nurtured, maintained and brought to the fore. Our volunteers are trained to be with, not just work for. Whilst they do great work, their ability to bring joy and dignity to the lives of the people they serve goes far beyond whatever they could do in the classroom.



The Cardoner Project is driven by a peer-to-peer leadership model. Young people took the leap of faith to volunteer overseas, gave up countless hours to get the restaurant off the ground and continue to pass on their knowledge to those who follow them. Young people will continue to drive The Project for the years to come.



The isolated, rural nature of many of our projects brings volunteers in touch with both raw and spellbinding natural beauty. Seeing the way the host communities interact with such a beautiful environment, cultivating and nurturing it, results in a vast appreciation for the natural world.

