



*The volunteer movement plays a major role in allowing young people to have an experience of life helping those who are very poor.*

In the past twenty years the volunteer movement has been a unique source of vocations for the Province. Fr Marcelo Farfán, the Provincial, indicates that as part of the Province Vocation Plan the volunteer movement plays a major role in allowing young people to have an experience of life helping those who are very poor; they “come and see” and while some then choose to be Salesians, everyone has a very real experience of Don Bosco in their life.

What started out as a personal initiative then became a province and even an inter-province choice. We currently have a single Salesian Family-wide volunteer project, one that works towards teamwork in all respects: leadership,

coordination, communion and resources, in order to strengthen the mission volunteer movement in Ecuador.

Both male and female volunteers are in roughly equal numbers, and twice yearly we send out some 80 to a 100 young volunteers. Similarly, the Province also welcomes international volunteers from Austria, Germany, Italy, the United States. We see to it that young people are part of the life and activity of the communities, and in an appropriate setting for an apostolic experience and a life of faith. We also do our best to see that they are personally accompanied. It is a challenge to accompany young people as they conclude their experience as



volunteers, to see that they become active citizens who maintain a Christian viewpoint on life.

