

**Mallory Wolfe Turner****Position:** Lead Youth English Teacher for Abriendo Mentas**Location:** Brasilito, Guanacaste, Costa Rica**Expected Length of Service:** One year**Description of Community Service**

Brasilito is in a transition from an agriculture-based economy to one based on tourism and services. English and technology skills are increasingly essential for members of this community as the economy shifts. Abriendo Mentas (AM) aims to address the desire to learn English that community members have expressed. As the Lead Youth English Teacher, I will equip children from a young age with tools to be successful in this changing economy. I will teach pre-K through sixth grade after school English, technology, and art classes. I will also work in collaboration with the psychologist of Casa Brasilito to address social needs of children and adolescents in Brasilito. Additionally, because AM only recently expanded to Brasilito, I will continue to cultivate community trust and to develop a curriculum that best meets the needs and desires of this particular community.

The children will benefit in the short term because the AM English courses will supplement their regular school language courses, helping them thrive academically. They will also benefit by having a safe, nurturing environment accessible to them every day and by growing in self-confidence by learning new skills. In the long term, opportunities will be open to these children that would be unavailable without English skills. Even those who do not go into tourism or service jobs will benefit from being bilingual, which, in a globalized world, is hugely beneficial.