



GENEVA COLLEGE *Semester in Rome*

## Service Opportunities in Rome

Students who have chosen to engage the community through helping others comment that these experiences have enhanced their time in Italy.

Participation in service opportunities is voluntary and might fulfill home campus requirements, such as earning Ministry and Service (MAS) credits at Azusa Pacific University. APU students should complete a Ministry Service Report and provide the site supervisor with the second page of the report for verification of hours.

The Semester in Rome currently has the following opportunities available:

### **Opportunity: Teaching English as a Second Language**

**Location:** Rome Baptist Church, Piazza San Lorenzo in Lucina, 35. The Piazza is located off Via del Corso.

**Website:** <http://www.romebaptist.org/>

**Contact/Supervisor:** David Hodgdon      E-mail: romebaptist@gmail.com      Phone: 066876652

**Description:** Rome Baptist Church has offered free English lessons to the community for more than 10 years. These lessons are held on **Tuesday evenings** and offered in three sessions: September – November, January – Easter, Easter – May. Often there are nearly 80 students involved weekly coming from well over a dozen nations. In the beginners section alone students come from Italy, Iraq, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mozambique, Egypt, Brazil, Sri Lanka, and China. The students range in age from elementary aged children to retired adults. The students are divided into five levels based on their language competency. Each of the levels is taught by native English speakers and each group typically has a lead teacher and assistants. Students who wish to receive credit for teaching should be committed to coming regularly to the Tuesday night lessons and can serve as assistant teachers.

Volunteers can also help prepare the snacks for the students and/or help prepare dinner for the teachers who serve nearly every week.

**Commitment:** The weekly commitment is for volunteers to arrive at the church at 6 p.m. and remain until classes have ended and the rooms have been returned to their normal setting. Volunteers and the teacher should coordinate the duties and the assistant teachers need to communicate with the lead teacher a few weeks in advance (whenever possible) if they are not be able to attend the class.

**Responsibilities Include:**

- class room setup / clean up
- welcoming students
- teaching

**Teaching Component Responsibilities Includes:**

- leading small group practice sessions
- one-on-one assistance
- teaching a portion of the weekly lesson
- or teaching the whole lesson

**Activity: Ministry to Afghan Refugees**

**Location:** Trastevere Baptist Church, Via della Lungaretta 124

**Organization:** KYRIOS. KYRIOS is a non-profit Volunteer Association ("Centro diaconale di solidarietà KYRIOS") established in 2004 to help those who are most in need.

**Website:** [http://associazionekyrios.com/Homepage\\_English.html](http://associazionekyrios.com/Homepage_English.html)

**Contact/Supervisor:** Elisabeth Mager      E-mail: [mager@tiscali.it](mailto:mager@tiscali.it)      Cell: 3295966351

**Description:** Every **Saturday** volunteers can be part of a group that prepares and distributes lunch to about 125 refugees from Afghanistan near the Piramide. KYRIOS' primary goal is to establish relationships of friendship, because they realize that for people who come from a culture in which one lives in extended families it is traumatic to live alone, in which contact with the family is maintained, if at all possible, through telephone conversations. These refugees are in a land and a culture totally different from their own, must navigate life in a language that they don't understand, and live (sometimes on the street) surrounded by people (most of whom are male) with whom they might have nothing in common. Because of all of this, a little bit of personal attention is much appreciated. The KYRIOS volunteers try to get to know the refugees' names, be interested in their stories, understand and talk (with LOTS of laughter) at least a little bit of Farsi, offer encouragement to face the long and slow bureaucratic process for the recognition of their request for political asylum, explain western culture, and share the love of Christ.

**Timeline:** The service goes from 8:30 a.m. to roughly 2:30 p.m. and is roughly divided as follows:

8:30 a.m.: A strong person needed at Trastevere station (buses 3, 719, H and tram 8) at the Tuodi supermarket to help carry groceries and load the car.

9:30 a.m.: Unload the car at Trastevere Baptist Church and carry groceries upstairs

9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Cutting and peeling vegetables and cooking the food

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.: Setting up tables, preparing napkins and spoons, setting out aluminum tins, filling them with food, and closing them

12:30–1 p.m.: Loading the car, washing dishes, cleaning the kitchen, sweeping and mopping kitchen, dining room, hall and bathroom floors

1–2:30 p.m.: Leaving Trastevere Baptist Church via bus for the Garbatella area where food is distributed to the refugees; fellowship with the refugees is encouraged

**Commitment:** Occasional commitment is acceptable.

**Activity: Ministry to the Homeless**

**Location:** Ostiense Train Station

**Organization:** KYRIOS. KYRIOS is a non-profit Volunteer Association ("Centro diaconale di solidarietà KYRIOS") established in 2004 to help those who are most in need.

**Website:** [http://associazionekyrios.com/Homepage\\_English.html](http://associazionekyrios.com/Homepage_English.html)

**Contact/Supervisor:** Elisabeth Mager      E-mail: mager@tiscali.it      Cell: 3295966351

**Description:** On **Sunday** evenings, the KYRIOS foundation provides tea and cookies for refugees and the homeless at Rome's Ostiense Train Station. Each week dinner is provided by another organization, but the KYRIOS foundation wants to provide a warm cup of tea to the Afghan refugees and others who are sleeping outside. Like the Saturday lunch, this act of service opens up many doors to building relationships with refugees and others. More than just serving the refugees, we want to build relationships with these (mostly) men and (occasional) women to help meet their daily physical, relational, and spiritual needs.

**Time Commitment:** 9–10 p.m. on Sunday nights

**Commitment:** Occasional commitment is acceptable. It's important that a single woman not travel there alone at night, as a safety precaution.