



# The AjA Project

Summer Internships, 2006  
Duke University Summer of Service Program

## Mission Statement:

Children affected by war have - by their choices, their actions and expressions - a unique opportunity to raise global awareness and to break the cycle of violence. In response to this, The AjA Project provides innovative media arts and photography-based educational programs that empower youth to explore identity and develop communication and leadership skills, for the purpose of fostering self-sufficiency, both for the individual and their community.

The AjA Project empowers resettled refugee youth living in San Diego to use photography and other media arts to document their lives, share their stories, and build self esteem and leadership skills. AjA's participatory photography workshops for refugee youth give them the opportunity to reflect upon, process and share their experiences of migration. Through exhibits of their photographs and writings, AjA also works to educate the broader community about the complex realities of the refugee experience. AjA's students in San Diego are originally from countries including Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

In addition to our programs in San Diego, The AjA Project operates two international programs for refugee youth, located on the Thai/Burmese border and in Bogotá, Colombia. Although these programs are quite independent, our San Diego office is the headquarters for the entire organization, so you will have the opportunity to experience domestic and international nonprofit work.

Internships with The AjA Project can be tailored to suit individual intern's interests and skills; however they typically involve opportunities to work directly with the students, and also to work in areas such as program evaluation, grant writing and fundraising, exhibit and event coordination, and general office support. The AjA Project is a relatively small organization, providing interns an opportunity to get directly involved in the operations of a growing nonprofit. The AjA Project was founded in 2000 by two Duke alumni.

The AjA Project welcomes all interested students to apply for an internship. Experience working with young people and an interest in photography are a plus, but not a prerequisite!

For further information please visit [www.ajaproject.org](http://www.ajaproject.org). If you have questions or would like to apply, please contact Summer Lopez at [slopez@ajaproject.org](mailto:slopez@ajaproject.org) or 619-223-7001. We look forward to hearing from you!

