



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



My name is Karis Ailabouni and I served in Madagascar from 2013 to 2014 through the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. A Chicago native, I graduated from Valparaiso University in 2013 with a degree in music, psychology, and French. Eager for a transformative, international service experience that would deepen my sense of identity, faith, and global awareness, I left for Madagascar shortly after graduating. As a YAGM volunteer, I taught English at a Lutheran school and led an English

club. However, I spent much of my time cooking and eating rice with my Malagasy family, jamming with the church musicians, and doing zumba with the ladies. After a year of so many defining experiences, I am thrilled to be serving as an ELCA Global Mission Recruiter in the Great Lakes/Northeast Region.

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## YAGM Program Description

*The Young Adults in Global Mission program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) invites young adults, ages 21-29, into a transformative, year-long journey in global service.*

**Participants are placed in one of more than 10 countries** and serve in the spirit of accompaniment — walking together with global companions in mutuality, solidarity and interdependence.

**Volunteers explore and deepen their faith, worldview, and self-understanding** as they serve and live in community with local hosts. Participants are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors as they provide critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need.

**Service placements vary widely.** Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, women's issues and children and youth. Volunteers are placed according to their individual interests, skills or growth areas. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

To learn more, visit [www.ELCA.org/YAGM](http://www.ELCA.org/YAGM)