

EVS project “Children Come First” - 2014-1-PT02-KA205-001944

Dates of the project: 05 January 2015 until 24 September 2015 (9 months)

Coordinating Organization: ProAtlântico – Associação Juvenil

Hosting Organization: Casa Pia de Lisboa – CED Santa Clara

Description:

Casa Pia de Lisboa (CPL) is a Public Institute under the tutelage of Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity. The mission of CPL is to promote the rights and protection of children and young people, especially those who are in danger or at risk of exclusion, to ensure their full development, through acceptance, education, training and social and professional integration.

This project will take place in **Centro de Educação e Desenvolvimento (CED) Santa Clara** that is composed by a net of 6 foster homes located in Sintra, Cascais and Oeiras.

The main aims of the foster homes are:

- protection of children/young people from dangerous family situations;
- provision of basic living conditions, affection and safe environment;
- supply psychological care;
- make the diagnosis taking in consideration different issues (ex: health, social, educational, psychological, emotional, physical needs)
- definition of a Care Plan (Life Project) of each child/young person;
- privilege the child/young person integration, according to the community resources (attend to school, participation in sports, leisure, cultural and scouts activities);
- prepare the children/young people to the future: return to the family, adoption, longer stay in the hosting organisation or in other foster home;

Each foster home offers protection in maximum to 14 children and young people, under 18 years old that were victims of maltreatments inflicted by their families (ex: negligence; physical, emotional and sexual abuses; moral-legal/educational maltreatments; drug/alcohol addiction).

Profile of the volunteer:

The project "CHILDREN COME FIRST" requires that the volunteers must be very human, self motivated, proactive, creative, with handwork skills, with self-initiative, willing to take on new challenges, very flexible and ready to help in different tasks of the children/young people education and life.

A high motivation to work with children and young people and special interest on music, dance, theatre, sports, cooking, computers, handicrafts, gardening, history, can be an added value, since these areas their fields of interest and will be the way to reach their attention. So, is expected the volunteers have a positive attitude, patience and good listening capacity.

The volunteers must be open minded and tolerant to work with people with fewer opportunities with different backgrounds and affected by different problems (ex: education difficulties, coming from broken families/orphans, young people with mental illnesses, with low economic resources, high cultural differences, etc.).

Therefore is important to have good adaption to different realities and ready to live with different conditions and environments they are used to in their original country.

The volunteers should have motivation to help youngsters with fewer opportunities to discover special skills to increase their chances to be employed. The volunteers might have interest to run workshops to unemployed young people about the benefits of participation in non-formal projects from Erasmus + Program in order to improve their skills and help them to integrate the labor market.

Tasks of the volunteer

The role of the EVS volunteers will be to help the team of the receiving organization to create a home and safe environment, where the children feel protected and live in a healthy way. Therefore, the volunteers have to give a lot of care and transmit a feeling of confidence in their relation with the children.

This can be achieved by creating a good relationship with the children and earning their trust. Sometimes the children might show verbal or phisic aggressive attitudes towards adults around them and have to be comprehended and at the same time everybody have to teach them rules, so they can learn values of respect, love, tolerance, etc.

Is expected the volunteers get to know all the children's daily routine: wake up, going to school, lunch time, but mostly back from school, playing time, dinner time, go to sleep and also during sleeping time, so sometimes work in shifts can occur. Is also expected the volunteers help in different fields of the working of the foster home.

Below are proposals of activities that have to be adapted according to each volunteer profile.

- Animate and implement leisure time activities (ex: sports, music, singing, dance, theatre, handicrafts, watching movies, thematic conversations, etc.)
- Accompany children in outside activities of the foster home (ex: go to the doctor, take children to/from school/playground/cultural places, etc.)
- Motivate children/youngsters to study (ex: English language tutoring, Maths ...) and to complete their objectives (ex: with creative methods like games, music, quiz, etc.) and assist them in computers (ex: internet search, Word, Excel, Power point, etc.) and search for jobs, trainings, occupation and leisure activities
- Propose and implement specific activities related to the period of the holidays/ weekends (ex: Christmas theatre play, build Carnival masks, games with Easter eggs, Summer camps, birthdays, etc.)
- Help with the meals
- Help children and youngsters to organize the house and the rooms
- Organisation of offers from the community

The volunteers also have the chance to participate in activities of divulgation of Erasmus + Program (in schools, Universities, youth clubs and youth events) and have the chance to implement a personal dissemination project with a financial support from ProAtlântico.

Timetable:

In general, the schedule of the volunteers will be mainly during afternoon (after school) and evening and can also match with weekends, because it's when the children spend more time at home. In case of tasks that don't include children work, sometimes they can be performed during mornings.

The volunteers will collaborate 35 hours per week during 5 days a week (30 hours of activities + 5 hours for trainings, language support, mentorship meetings, etc.). Although, the volunteers might work different hours per day.

The schedule will be defined by the hosting organization on arrival of the volunteer and it can change according to the activities.

The volunteers will have 2 free days each week that can vary from week to week according to the needs of the hosting organization. However, when the hosting organization has activities on volunteer's free days and the volunteers are asked to work, they might have to choose another free day, since the collaboration of the volunteers is important.

The volunteers have the right to take the Portuguese National official holidays as free days, when they match with working days.

The volunteers will have 2 days of holidays per month for the duration of the project, to be taken in agreement between the volunteers and the team. The volunteers can join the holidays or take them by month. The volunteers must discuss with the project supervisor from the hosting organization the dates of holidays at least one month before.

Conditions:**TRAVEL**

The volunteer is entitled to one return travel ticket between the sending and the receiving country. The sending organization will help the volunteer to purchase tickets. If the cost of the ticket is more expensive than the amount of money approved, the volunteer will be responsible to cover the difference. An itinerary must be sent to ProAtlântico to get an approval before the ticket is bought.

FOOD

ProAtlântico – Associação Juvenil will provide €150,00 (every 30 days) to cover costs of food and extra expenses (ex: cleaning materials, ...) during non-working time. The volunteer can use the food money to buy own food, cook in the apartment, eat in a restaurant, etc.), the volunteer must ask for invoices or those expenses and deliver them to the Coordinating Organization.

During working time the receiving organization provides suitable meal in the organization's facilities, which is based on a Mediterranean diet.

ACCOMMODATION

ProAtlântico provides accommodation in an apartment (with 6 volunteers in total), University residence, hostel or hosting family, double or triple bedroom with fully equipped kitchen, toilet, laundry facilities and living room. The costs with electricity, water, gas, TV and Internet are covered by the Coordinating Organization. The volunteers will have towels and bed clothes for the entire period of the project.

LOCAL TRANSPORTS

A monthly local transport allowance is provided by the receiving organization that covers at least the costs between the accommodation and project place. The volunteer must ask for receipt and keep it safe to give to the receiving organization team in order to be reimbursed.