

ASPIRATION CENTER PROJECT

SUPPORTING IN TAKING CARE OF MENTALLY-IMPAIRED CHILDREN AT ASPIRATION CENTER

Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam's project

Project title: Supporting in taking care of mentally-impaired children at Aspiration Center

Position and title of post: Volunteers as tutors of English for mentally – impaired children

Project owner: Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam (SJ Vietnam)

Partner: Aspiration Center

Location: At Aspiration Center in Hanoi, Vietnam

Duration: At least 2 months

1. About SJ Vietnam

SJ Vietnam operates through a network of national non-profit organizations and partner organizations in Europe, The Middle East, Asia, Africa, South and North America, and Australia.

It organizes short and long-term international workcamps, actions of social integration, training activities, international solidarity actions and runs small

Youth centers in Hanoi. SJ Vietnam is a full member of UNESCO – CCIVS and NVDA.

Through these actions, SJ Vietnam aims to promote:

- The voluntary participation of all, particularly young people and those in social disadvantaged situation, in local, national and international life.
- Local development that takes into consideration the needs of the individual, the environment and the cultural heritage into consideration.
- The breakdown of barriers between generations, cultures and nations.
- A concrete construction of peace.

SJ Vietnam mobilizes young people themselves to bring the values of tolerance and respects for all human beings without any political or ideological cleavage. The management of the organization and all our activities are open to all young people without any discrimination: we select our volunteers only based on their motivations. For each activity, national or international, we try to have lowest cost possible to be accessible to everybody.

Basically, the activities of the hosting projects which are organized with volunteers are work camps (renovation, masonry, carpentry, joinery, teaching,

children activities, environment protection, painting, art performance, etc) and local development (short and long-term projects).

2. About Aspiration Center

“Art Orientation and Mentally-disabled Children Integration Center” is established in 02/01/2009 and is now helping 14 intellectually handicapped children at the age of 4-23. Among these children, there are many who are going to mainstream primary schools in the morning in order to not be isolated from the community and going to the center in the afternoon to develop their self-help and language skills.

This is a center, which takes care and educates children with intellectual disabilities. Disabled children, especially intellectually should be trained and encouraged to live independently with the support of special educational systems at home and at school, otherwise they might become a burden to society and their families. The center gives an opportunity for mentally disabled children to have special education to develop self-help, language and communication skills.

3. Description of work

The children at the center can be divided into 2 groups. The first one is relatively heavily handicapped group who cannot speak and some even cannot hear. These children have difficulties in moving, holding things and often lose their concentration easily. Therefore, you should be very patient and flexible. You will help them improve their muscular strength by taking them for a walk, teaching them to do simple exercises and to play simple games. Besides, you can be creative as to do various activities to help them recognize the surrounding world and build language skills.

The other one is less handicapped group. These children go to mainstream schools in the morning and only go to the center for the afternoon. You will organize English class, teach them to play simple games, sing songs, draw and many things else. Volunteers encourage the students to learn English, for example, by organizing leisure activities in English (audio, books, etc...), by providing the self-study materials.

After that, you can teach them to play sports such as basketball in the backyard. There is no need to worry about the language barrier because you will work together with local volunteers and this may be a good chance for you to learn about different cultures from other people. You should know that the purpose of this division is only to make you know more about children here and find the best way to help them, but not to factually separate them into groups and treat them differently. Furthermore, volunteers can help the teachers and staffs with other tasks in the school.

4. Project Objectives

Mentally – impaired children are the sensitive ones who need love and care from people around them. With recreation activities, those children have more chance to integrate into communities instead of living their whole life in their family houses. With children who are less handicapped, there are also many difficulties for them to live a normal life and have a regular schooling. With English of the children improved, they can speak that language better and they can use it more efficiently, which will help them a lot, in their studying. The English and leisure activities will bring knowledge and happiness to children so that they will have optimistic view with life around them and they will become useful people for our society.

Furthermore, volunteers and students will understand more about each other, which is a good way to experience cultural exchange. Through teaching and playing with children there, volunteers show them their sympathies and children know that they are one part of the world; they will try their best to integrate with normal ones.

5. Duties and responsibilities

- Teach English for the children.
- Organize recreation and leisure activities for the children.
- Talk with students to understand more about them so that volunteers can give out better communicating and teaching methods.
- Encourage students to speak English a lot so that their English can be improved.

6. Work arrangement:

- Working place is at Aspiration Center, which is about 8-9 km from LTV House.
- It is envisioned that the volunteer will devote 3 hours/day, 5 days/week from 3-6 p.m
- Volunteers will have timetable for working and teaching, they will work with a Vietnamese volunteer at that school.
- The volunteers will stay in host families. Accommodation details will be provided before the volunteers' arrival in Vietnam

7. Qualifications and experiences

- Love to play with children and be willing to share

- Know simple activities, games, songs that children can enjoy
- Be patient, flexible, imaginative
- Previous English coaching/teaching experience is an asset.
- Have experience in dealing with disabled children
- Have sympathy with unusual behaviours of the unlucky children
- Be able to create a friendly environment for the children
- Be willing to work and stay in Hanoi, ready to live as local people (basic accommodations, transport by bus or bicycle, local food).
- Strong inter-personal skills, and experience in working with a wide variety of people, cultural sensitivity.
- Commitment to volunteerism, considerable experience as a volunteer
- High motivation and ready to be in face of many difficulties such as language and cultural difference, low budget, etc.

8. Participation fee

250 EUR/month for volunteers staying in host families. This fee includes food, transportation and accommodation in host families. Volunteers will pay all their participation fee one time for their sending organizations or directly to banks and fees will be transferred for SJ Vietnam before volunteers come to Vietnam. Volunteers have to bring the receipts for SJ Vietnam. If they do not pay their participation fees before coming, they will be in the waiting list. They can stay longer or less than couples of months but they are supposed to pay for the whole months and may be a half as well. For example, if volunteers stay for 3 months and 10 days in the LTV house, they are supposed to pay for 3 months and a half (it means they will pay 875 EUR); if they stay for 3 months and 20 days, they

are supposed to pay for 4 months (it means they will pay 1000 EUR). If volunteers have holiday in the middle of their voluntary durations, the holiday duration will still be considered as their voluntary time so volunteers are supposed to pay for the holiday duration. If they have holidays after finishing all voluntary work with SJ Vietnam, they do not have to pay for that.

Following is the address to transfer fee:

Account name: SJ Vietnam

Account number: 4054928

Address: ANZ Hanoi Branch

No 14, Le Thai To Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

Swift: ANZBVNVX

Telephone: +84 438258190

Fax: +84 438258188/9

9. Application procedures

Interested candidates should email detailed Resume (CV) and an application letter to their voluntary sending organizations.

The national voluntary organizations have to send their candidates' CVs to: in@sjvietnam.org. Our incoming coordinator is responsible for accepting volunteers.