

INFORMATION SHEET

Project title: Helping Mentally-Impaired Children Integrate into Community

Organization: SJ Vietnam

Partner: Aspiration Center



SJ Vietnam (www.sjvietnam.org) is an international youth NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) that promotes values of solidarity, peace, tolerance through young citizenship projects to improve society during and after the voluntarism. It was set up in 2004 by and for national and international young volunteers.

SJ Vietnam is an independent Vietnamese branch of SJ France, a full member of CCVIS (UNESCO) and NVDA, a partner of YAP and Alliance. SJ Vietnam is a non-political and non-religious organization which open to everybody without any distinction of nationality, race, philosophy, financial resources, and education or sex

1. HISTORY

At December 24th 2004, with the help of UNV Vietnam, NVDA and Un ETAI Pour Le Vietnam, SJ Vietnam was set up. The volunteering organization started as an informal cooperation between Miss Do Thi Phuc, Vice-president of Vietnam Youth Volunteer Club and Mr. Pierre De Hanscutter a Belgian UNV working for UNDP Vietnam.

In June 2006, with the support of a sister organization in France, Solidarités Jeunes, Miss Do Thi Phuc was nominated as the official director of SJ Vietnam, Mr. Pierre De Hanscutter became the honorific president and European representative. At the same time, SJ Vietnam is a full member of Network for Voluntary Development in Asia-Pacific (NVDA) and an active member of the Coordination Committee for the International Voluntary Service (CCVIS) at UNESCO.

In 2006, 2007, 2008, SJ Vietnam got prize from the World Bank, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health for its projects on "Vietnam innovation day" on topics of "Disadvantaged Youth and Children", "Safety traffic" and "HIV/AIDS"

In January 2008, SJ Vietnam was the co-host organization for 7th NVDA General Assembly in Vietnam and welcomed young volunteers of AEYVE from Asia and Europe.

In December 2008, we successfully coordinated Arte-Diem, a jointed project of SJ Vietnam, NVDA and YAP (Youth Action for Peace) to promote peace through art which involved 4000 less-fortuned children and thousands volunteers.

In 2009, we cooperate with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in Vietnam to celebrate International Volunteers' Day and we are invited to launch our speech and message on behalf of volunteers in Vietnam for promotion of sustainable environmental protection.

Currently, 5000 Vietnamese volunteers have been official members of SJ Vietnam. Around 500 international volunteers took part in our activities each year.

SJ Vietnam is one of the biggest international workcamp organizations in Vietnam.

2. GOALS

By developing International Volunteering, SJ Vietnam aims to:

- ❖ Work towards a society of justice, peace and solidarity
- ❖ Break cultural misunderstanding between people and nations
- ❖ Improve local and global environment, provide informal education, help to reduce poverty and strengthen human rights
- ❖ Encourage young people to participate actively in the society in which they live.

Special skills

Volunteer should:

- Love to play with children and be willing to share
- Know simple activities, games, songs that children can enjoy
- Be patient, flexible, imaginative
- 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

Project location

“Art Orientation and Mentally-disabled children integration Center”

This is a center which takes care and educates children with intellectual disabilities. Disable children, especially those who are intellectual disabilities 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 help them develop self-help, language and communication skills.

Despite being newly-established in 02/01/2009, the center is now helping 14 intellectually handicapped children at the age of 4-23. Among these children, there are many those 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.

Cost: 200 EURO/2 weeks, 250 EURO/3 weeks

FEES ARE NOT ONLY FOR YOUR FOOD AND YOUR ACCOMMODATION!

We spend our budget as following:

I	Office + Administration	20%
A	Local staff costs	7%
B	Staff Travel Costs	1%
C	Administration	12.68%
D	Capital Equipment	0.41%
II	Project:	41%
E	Fisher Village costs	14%
F	Other projects	10%
G	Project materials	7.77%
H	Training	10%
II		
I	Volunteers	29%
I	Accommodation & Food	25.96%
J	Local Transport	3.03%
K	Contingency	10%

Project duration: 2 weeks/3 weeks

Age: +18

Coordinator : Ms. Lai Thanh Hang

Tel : +84 975 750 540

Email contact : out@sjvietnam.org



Arrival

You will need to arrange your flights into Noi Bai International Airport. We will arrange a taxi driver to pick you up on request. The address of your orientation place in Hanoi is:

International Youth House / Workcamp Accommodation

Number 16, An Xa, Phuc Xa street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: + 84 975 750 540 (Ms. Hang)

Work Details

- From 1-5 pm: The children at the center can be divided into 2 groups. The first one is relatively heavily handicapped group who can't speak and some even can't 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. After that, you can teach them to play sports such as basketball in the backyard. There's 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.

Camp activities

- There are the first three days granting for Vietnamese introduction including: Vietnamese lessons in Volunteer House, Hanoi capital tour, Vietnamese cooking and traditional games in Bach Thao Zoo. You will have lively experience and knowledge about Vietnam, its characteristics, its peaceful capital, its tastes and dishes, as well as its games that you have never undergone if you only read through books or travel brochures.

- Evenings will be interesting opportunities for participant(s) from each foreign country to show off your cultural aspects. So when you join the project, you savor not only Vietnamese culture but also cultures of different countries around the world.

Accommodation and Meals

About your accommodation, you will stay in Volunteer Center.

In Volunteer Center, Volunteers will sleep on dormitory beds. There are up to 9 volunteers per room and 18 volunteers share 2 bathrooms. Volunteers sharing the house will be both Vietnamese and International ones. You will need to bring a mosquito net, sleeping bag, small pillow, sheet and an inflatable mattress if you require a little more comfort. There are 2 bathrooms with hot showers, a large communal kitchen with washing machine and ample space on the roof terrace to hang your clothes to dry.

Between the volunteers staying at the Volunteer Center, you will need to share the cooking (a range of ingredients will be provided) and cleaning and ensure that it is hygienic at all times. Bottled mineral water will be supplied at all times at the house. As volunteers you can make this your house - there will not be a co-ordinator staying with you and so you will be responsible for the condition that the house is kept in.

Please note: the Volunteer Center is basic and very simple in appearance, but you'll be made to feel very welcome and be provided with all necessities to make your stay comfortable. Keeping the house clean is the responsibility of all, there will not be a house cleaner to tidy up after you. By following the following simple rules, the house will be a clean and tidy place to live for all:

- Wash and put away dishes after dinner
- Keep toilets and bathrooms clean
- Regularly take out the rubbish
- Remove shoes before entering the house

Travel plan

- Orientation day: on this day, you can have one day to go on Hanoi city tour. Hanoi is not only the capital but also considered to be the cultural center of Vietnam where history has left behind its imprint. Hanoi hosts more cultural sites than any other city in Vietnam so you can have one interesting day going around and enjoy the peaceful beauty of Hanoi in some places such as the Old Quarter, Hoan Kiem lake, the Temple of Literature, One Pillar Pagoda, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum...
- On the weekends: We will help you to book 1 or 2 day tour in the north of Vietnam. You can travel to Halong Bay, which has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of breathtaking scenic beauties. Or you can go to Sapa, the fanciful town in fog, famous for its special cultural diversity in a combination of ethnic minority groups' culture, for a glimpse of the famed "Love Market" and many other wonderful destinations in the north. We will arrange private tours with professional guides, high quality service, unique and diversity of activities (team work games and leadership games,...) with a reasonable price. You will have the chance to discover the hidden charm of the Vietnamese culture and people and we ensure that you will have cheerful and unforgettable trips in Vietnam



Remarks

Kit List – What to pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and, therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

Personal Admin

- Photocopies of important papers such as passport, airline tickets and insurance documents

General

- Inflatable mattress

- Sleeping bag
- Sheet
- Small pillow
- Mosquito net
- Day bag / rucksack (for excursions)
- A torch
- Mobile phone
- Camera & batteries
- Phone charger with a two pin adaptor plug
- Playing cards for free time
- Diary – you will have so many amazing experiences to remember
- CD walkman and speakers (if you wish)
- Tissues
- Plastic bags
- Snacks (cup of soups, biscuits etc)
- Pocket-knife
- Towel

Clothing

- Walking shoes / trainers
- Flip Flops
- A hat to protect you from the sun
- Rain coat
- Clothes; Long sleeve shirts and trousers are great.

Medical Kit

- Small medical kit containing plasters, medicine for diarrhea, head ache tablets, anti-histamine cream and any medication you will need
- Mosquito repellent
- Contraception including condoms
- Bio logical soap (if you are taking the trekking option)
- Antibacterial soap gel (does not need water to rinse off)
- Travel wash for clothes