

„European spirit through European Volunteers in different Caritas Organisations in Upper Austria“

In different Caritas Organisations in Upper Austria we want to have the support and ideas from European Volunteers. Caritas has already long term experience, some of the Caritas Organisations are new ones.

Please find below the description of the different hosting projects and when applying please mention the title of the project!

Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen - St. Isidor

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/948000886_en

Start: February and September

7 Volunteers

Place: Leonding

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independant as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

Sankt Isidor looks like a small village with one kindergarden, two afterschool care centres and five houses where children live (assisted living). In addition, there are two schools, a small church, an outdoor pool and many playgrounds for the children. In walking distance, one can find grocery shops and the next tram stop. Sankt Isidor lies close to the provincial capital of Upper Austria, Linz (just 10 minutes by tram). Linz is located next to the Danube and offers many cultural events. From Linz, one can reach the UNESCO world heritage area of Salzkammergut in under an hour by train.

We offer two different kinds of projects for volunteers in St. Isidor: supporting either the afterschool care centre or with assisted living. Depending on a volunteer's experience and preferences, we will be able to address the right kind of tasks. The main tasks are to support the staff in their daily work and to support the children in their leisure-time activities such as playing, sports, swimming, excursions, cooking. Further tasks include cleaning together with the children as a part of pedagogical tasks, as well as keeping rules in the team and setting boundaries for the children. Each volunteer will work in a group of five to eight children with and without disabilities. In the group, the volunteers will receive a warm lunch. Volunteers are working on their project from Monday until Thursday. Every volunteer has five weeks of holidays and is free on the public holidays aswell. In the Kindergarden and afterschool care centre, there are fixed holidays in the week before easter and during christmas time, in the assisted living one can take their holidays individually. The accomodation for volunteers is located in the village of Sankt Isidor, so the distance between

accommodation and project is within 100 meters. Volunteers have their own room in either a single flat or shared apartment with a shared kitchen, a TV, free wifi and laundry service.

We encourage the volunteers to bring their own culture, abilities, ideas and creativity into the group by cooking, singing songs, creating leisure-time activities and so on. Thus, the children in the groups can experience a new culture, new traditions and widen their horizon through cultural exchanges. In return, the volunteers will get an insight into the Austrian culture and into working with children with disabilities. Thus intercultural learning and communication shall be the aim for both the volunteer and the host organisation. In addition, the volunteers receive full support from our staff and their mentor.

Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen – St. Elisabeth

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911896031_en

Start: August and February

4 Volunteers

Place: Linz

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independent as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

St. Elisabeth is located in Linz, the provincial capital of Upper Austria, on the hill "Froschberg" close to the city centre and the city parks as well. Linz is located next to the Danube and offers many cultural events. From Linz, one can reach the UNESCO world heritage area of Salzkammergut in under an hour by train.

The project for volunteers in St. Elisabeth is called "Werkstätten" (sheltered workshops) or assisted living. The project is responsible for the educational qualification for young people with disabilities at the age of 15 to 30 years. One workshop is specialised on blind and visually impaired people, the second workshop offers several qualifications (such as learning to use a computer, sewing, working in a grocery shop, cooking, metalwork and many more). The practical education is accompanied by regular learning sessions, training job skills, individual coachings and internships in companies. We try to focus on the individual strengths, interests, needs and wishes of the young people. The aim of the project is to integrate young people with disabilities into free labour market.

The volunteer will assist staff members in the project by helping to train and educate a group of four to eight young people with disabilities. The volunteer will support our staff in daily routines, e.g. assisting leading training-sessions, learning with the youths, training job competences, social competences and so on. The volunteers learn about working in a multi-professional team, pursuing the individual goals (of the young people) together with the staff and about assisting people with

disabilities on high pedagogic standards. We encourage the volunteers to bring their own culture, abilities, ideas and creativity into the group by cooking, singing songs, creating leisure-time activities and so on. Thus, the young people in the workshops can experience a new culture, new traditions and widen their horizon through cultural exchanges. In return, the volunteers will get an insight into the Austrian culture and into working with young people with disabilities. Thus, intercultural learning and communication shall be the aim for both the volunteer and the host organisation. In addition, the volunteers receive full support from our staff and their mentor.

We provide a small appartement (single bedrooms) for the volunteers in the building, where they will work. The accomodation is equipped with a small kitchen, shower/WC, TV, free wifi and a washing machine.

Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen – St. Pius

Start: January

2 Volunteers

Place: Steegen/Peuerbach

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends to people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independant as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

The location of St. Pius specialises on people with disabilities. The project of a volunteer will be to support the clients of the living groups and in the workshops.

The volunteer can show a lot of his/her idea what solidartiy means for him/her. Part of each volunteering project is also to take part in german lessons and to work on an own project, whatever it is, we will try to realize it. All volunteers are welcome to bring in their culture, language teaching, intercultural ideas, outdoor ideas, abilities, ideas, creativity to present their way of living/culture/background into cooking, singing songs, creating free time activities with adults with disabilities and so on. Therefore, it is up to the volunteer to define the project in the end. Working methods are non formal learning, workshops, own ideas of volunteers, cultural exchanges It will be an enrichment for the volunteers side gaining a lot of experience, new impressions of a different culture and a good insight into the work with children/youngsters with special needs and persons with special needs in general.

Depending on a volunteer's experience and preferences, we will be able to address the right kind of tasks. The main tasks are to support the staff in their daily work and to support the people in their leisure-time activities such as playing, sports, swimming, excursions, cooking. Further tasks include cleaning together as a part of pedagogical tasks, as well as keeping rules in the team and setting boundaries. Each volunteer will work in a group of five to eight clients with disabilities. In the group, the volunteers will receive a warm lunch. Volunteers are working on their project from Monday until Thursday. Every volunteer has five weeks of holidays and is free on the public holidays aswell.

The accommodation for volunteers is located in the village of Sankt Pius, so the distance between accommodation and project is within 100 meters. Volunteers have their own room in either a single flat or shared apartment with a shared kitchen, a TV, free wifi and laundry service.

Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen – Kompetenzzentrum Hör- und Sehbildung

Start: January

1 Volunteer

Place: Linz

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends to people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independent as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

The Kompetenzzentrum Hör- und Sehbildung specialises on people with disabilities who are visually impaired or hearing-impaired. The project of a volunteer will be to support the clients of the living groups (3 groups) of the Kompetenzzentrum where 5 people at the age of 11-26 live in each group.

The volunteer can show a lot of his/her idea what solidarity means for him/her. Part of each volunteering project is also to take part in German lessons and to work on an own project, whatever it is, we will try to realize it. All volunteers are welcome to bring in their culture, language teaching, intercultural ideas, outdoor ideas, abilities, ideas, creativity to present their way of living/culture/background into cooking, singing songs, creating free time activities with adults with disabilities and so on. Therefore, it is up to the volunteer to define the project in the end. Working methods are non formal learning, workshops, own ideas of volunteers, cultural exchanges. It will be an enrichment for the volunteers side gaining a lot of experience, new impressions of a different culture and a good insight into the work with children/youngsters with special needs and persons with special needs in general.

Depending on a volunteer's experience and preferences, we will be able to address the right kind of tasks. The main tasks are to support the staff in their daily work and to support the clients in their leisure-time activities such as playing, sports, swimming, excursions, cooking. Further tasks include cleaning together as a part of pedagogical tasks, as well as keeping rules in the team and setting boundaries. Each volunteer will work in a group of five to eight clients with and without disabilities. In the group, the volunteers will receive a warm lunch. Volunteers are working on their project from Monday until Thursday. Every volunteer has five weeks of holidays and is free on the public holidays as well.

The accommodation for volunteers is located in the centre of Linz in a flat shared with another volunteer. To arrive at the work place the volunteer will need to use the public transportation (which will be paid for by our organisation). Volunteers have their own room in either a single flat or shared apartment with a shared kitchen, a TV, free wifi and laundry service.

Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen - INVITA

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911894382_en

Start: February/March 2021

5 Volunteers (location: Engelhartzell)

1 Volunteer (location: Haibach ob der Donau)

Places: Engelhartzell and Haibach ob der Donau

In the beautiful countryside of Upper Austria – just next to the Danube – in a small village called Engelhartzell – the headquarter of Caritas INVITA is located. INVITA is part of the Upper Austrian Caritas department for “People with Disabilities”.

The organisation "Caritas for People with Disabilities" attends to people with psychological and physical disabilities in living, working and educational interests. The organisations aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and to enhance their autonomy in daily life.

TEAM AND CLIENTS: INVITA's clients are female and male grown-ups, with different psychological and physical disabilities. We offer to our clients assisted living groups and activity groups. One group takes care of 8 to 17 clients. The volunteers will work with the team for the clients. Each team has a teamleader and the team size varies, depending on the number of clients in the group. But mainly the team has between 8 – 17 professional staff members, with proven qualifications and professional experience in the field of working with disabled people, such as professional qualified diploma personnel, psychological trained personnel, nurses, etc. Sometimes the group gets additional support from trainees, civil attendants, and other volunteers.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: In 2021 INVITA is looking for five volunteers who will support our activity groups and assisted living groups in Engelhartzell. And for one volunteer who will support our assisted living group in Haibach ob der Donau. The accommodations for all six volunteers are situated in Engelhartzell. The volunteer, who will support our group in Haibach ob der Donau, will commute to and from the project group with our shuttle service.

ASSISTED LIVING GROUP: The volunteer on the assisted living groups will support our staff in their daily work routine, e.g. to prepare food, to run errands, and to keep the workplace clean and tidy. The daily routine is to support our clients to run their household, prepare food, support with dressing, cooking, writing, reading, talking, cleaning, etc. Also typical maybe to accompany clients to their work places, and to accompany them during their leisure time (e.g. taking a walk, out- and indoor activities, handi-craft work, etc.).

ACTIVITY GROUP: The daily routine is to support our staff and clients in their work environment and their activity tasks and given chores. This can be to help with handicraft work or in the laundry shop, where our clients work, and depending on the activity group. Depending on a client's condition the tasks will vary. For example volunteers help to prepare food, run errands, help to keep the working environment clean and tidy, to accompany clients with errands, to support them in activities like reading, talking, eating, cleaning up, talking, cleaning, and other in- and/or outdoor activities etc.

OWN PROJECT: The volunteer can show a lot of his/her idea what solidarity means for him/her either at their project group but also with the co-volunteers. Part of each volunteering project is to take part in German lessons and to take part at the trainings of the National Agency. Also will you have the chance to work on an own project. Whatever the project idea is, we will support to realize it. All volunteers are welcome to bring in their culture and ideas to present their way of living/culture/background such as into cooking, teaching, singing songs, creating free time activities and so on. For example, in the recent years volunteers presented their own culture at the annual "Summerparty" and/or made a presentation about their home-countries, and their experiences throughout the year in the good-by-party at the end of the project. Therefore, it is up to the volunteer to define the whole project in the end.

ACCOMODATION/FOOD: Every volunteer will have his/her own furnished bedroom in an apartment with a shared bathroom/toilet, living room/kitchen. The common rooms are equipped with a TV, and free WiFi, washing machine. Here in Engelhartszell we have an operational kitchen for the staff and for the clients. Free lunch for 7 days a week and a free snack in the forenoon on workdays is included. For breakfast and dinner you have an equipped kitchen in your apartment, to cook on your own or with your co-volunteers.

THE LOCATION - ENGELHARTSZELL: To give you an idea about where Engelhartszell is: it is about 56 kilometers from Linz, the capital of Upper Austria and about 29 kilometres from Passau, Germany. The place where you will live, Engelhartszell or "Ezell" (how we call it) has about 1.000 inhabitants and is a village in the countryside, just next to the Danube. It may be small but especial for lovers of the countryside and the outdoors it has plenty to offer. Engelhartszell has a few shops, a supermarket, a doctor with an in-house pharmacy, a fire department, a police station, and an emergency medical service, and a lot of air to breathe.

By car, the next bigger cities are just about an hour drive away. Passau (Germany) can be reached within 29 km and the Upper Austrians capital Linz is only 56 km away. In these cities you will find malls, movie theatres, nightlife, etc. Ezell has a public transportation system (busses), which runs on a regular basis e.g. to Linz, Schärding, Passau a few times a day, and on a reduced schedule on weekends.

COMPANY CAR: Volunteers will have the possibility to use our company car for leisure time activities. Therefore it is necessary, that the volunteers are in possession of a valid driving license class B. We also have some bicycles that you can use, if needed.