

#Planet4Youth

SEASON 2

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

HOSTING ORGANISATIONS

Volunteers of this project are going to be hosted by 2 organisations working in a social field in a city of Vilnius, Lithuania.

First of them - The Blessed J. Matulaitis Social Center which purpose is to provide social assistance to take care of human dignity and the rights of defense. The social center operates on the basis of the Catholic Church's social doctrine, combining professional social assistance, social community initiative and community organizing. More information about the organization can be found [here](#).

The second hosting organization is The Blessed J. Matulaitis Family Support Center, which was established to provide specialized, closer to the client social services to the whole family. The mission of the organization– is to develop, maintain and support families of J. Matulaitis parish. Activities of the organization are based on Christian values. More information about the organization can be found [here](#).

DESCRIPTION OF A PROJECT

The world is faster and faster sinking in a plastic and breathes enormous quantity of carbon dioxide. All over the world youth is saying louder and louder “We want to keep a planet for us and our kids!” Different movements are rising. Youth of the world is criticizing business and politicians that are not doing enough to save our planet.

While active youth and experts are rising important questions and fighting with environmental problems people with less opportunities are forgotten. Those who are not living in big cities, don't have an easy access to the mass media, those who have economical obstacles to travel, and those that have learning difficulties, disabilities, facing discrimination or racism or other barriers to be active.

With this project we are seeking not only solidarity with a “green movement” but also involve the marginalized part of the society into that. The Project's activities give the opportunity to volunteers to involve themselves into social work and education fields, gain new skills, develop competences

and also experiment and find new tools that could help us to combine social work and education with rising awareness on the environmental issues.

During the project volunteers are going to work with kids, youth and people with mental disabilities. So, many times they are going to work with those with less opportunities. What is more, we are inviting volunteers who could be considered with less opportunities to take part of the project, learn more about social and the educational field and inform themselves about environment and bring their knowledge and new tools into their countries.

ACTIVITIES

There are four types of the activities of this project, they are going to be developed between 5th December 2021 and 31st July 2022.

1. DAY CARE CENTERS FOR KIDS
2. PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH
3. ADULTS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES
4. KINDERGARTEN

Explanation of activities:

1. DAY CARE CENTERS FOR KIDS

In the organization we have two day care centers for kids. We work with 6-11 year old children. Usually our kids live in poor material conditions, have emotional and behavior problems, have learning problems, and need psychological help.

Main volunteer's tasks:

- To spend some time individually with a child (as an elder brother) (15%)
- To help children in doing homework, make handicrafts, to teach foreign language in day care center (15%)
- To organise creative workshops in day care center (handicrafts, drama, computers, sports, cooking, arts...) (20%)
- To attend events in the city with some children (10%)
- Every two months go with children to weekend trips in Lithuania (10%)
- To help in the organisation, to organise some evening or other events (Christmas festival, Easter festival, cinema evenings, etc...) (10%)
- To help organise summer camp for socially disadvantaged children (10%)

- To participate and together organise activities which come out from own initiatives of Lithuanian young people and the volunteer (10 %).

PROJECT START: 5st December 2021

PROJECT END: 31st July 2022

DEADLINE TO APPLY: As soon as possible

2. PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH

We have 3 different programmes for youth in our organisation:

- Tranzitas: dedicated to 12-14 years old youth;
- Trampilas: dedicated to 14-18 years old youth;
- Sofkė: street working and open youth space dedicated to 14-28 years old youth.

The programmes are composed of the following:

Individual work

- *Social counselling*
- *Representation*
- *Mediation*
- *Functional counselling*

Group activities. The aim of group activities is to help the youth to develop the skills of communication, self-control, conflict resolution, teamwork and self-sufficiency through various everyday activities such as preparing food, playing foosball, watching movies or having group discussions. A lot of attention is concentrated on ensuring a safe interactive environment, on group processes and on encouraging the youth to initiate, plan activities as well as make them happen. Group activities are held twice or three times a week after school.

Experiential weekends. This is a long-term programme of experience-enhancing learning that makes up a part of the process of working with a group. During these weekends the emphasis is put on the development of various skills such as communication, conflict resolution, etc. The youth is encouraged to challenge themselves individually and as a group during the various outdoor and indoor experience-enhancing activities. The reflection of the gained experiences and efforts to understand their own behaviour consciously are of the highest priority herein.

Main volunteers tasks:

- Create contact and relationships with youngsters;
- Be willing to reflect and learn with youngsters and with team;

- Help organizing group activities;
- Help organizing experiential weekends;
- Be involved in group process.

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3. ADULTS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

Group is dedicated to integrate and assist mentally challenged and disabled people and their families. Also there are organized educating and leisure activities.

In the project THE OPEN COMMUNITY main tasks for volunteer:

- EVS volunteers would closely work and plan activities with young Lithuanian volunteers, who are helping to work with disabled clients in day care center:
- To help to organize with young Lithuanian volunteers cultural events in the city and community, with the aim to give people opportunity to accept disabled person.
- With professionals create drama and / or music peace and show them for local community.
- To show example and teach ways of self occupations for clients of day care center organizing for
- them free time occupation activities.
- To organize various handicraft workshops for clients of day care center (candles, postcards, drawings, work with tone, making things from wood, ecological workshops...).
- Together with disabled people take care of garden.
- To assist in making exhibitions of disabled people in local community.
- To organize with Lithuanian volunteers weekend trips for disabled children and clients of day care center.

The volunteer participates in all activities with disabled, helps individually, goes together to shop, assists in cooking, helps in a work sessions. After disabled people leave the volunteer has a day evaluation together with worker. Volunteers participate in a city events, retreats, summer camps, work camps, are leading person for disabled when they go to basketball match, concerts, theatres, cafe in the city.

All tasks will be discussed with volunteers to find the best way for volunteers and organization. Any initiative of volunteers will be encouraged and supported to help our

organization to develop.

Our organization during a year period has about 3 weekends seminars where we are preparing Lithuanian volunteers for working in our organization. So most of these seminars will be available for EVS volunteers as well.

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4. KINDERGARTEN

Pedagogy and philosophy of our work?

The pedagogic is based on Catholic principles in this project. It means, that we, educators and children:

- Start the day with short prayer and have prayers before meals
- Have short Catholic teachings once a week. Nowadays we have ten weeks with *The Ten Commandments*. Each Monday we have a teaching about one commandment, and during other days of the week we develop topics and tasks that are somehow related with the main topic. For example, if we talk about commandment *You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God*, all week we talk about our names – what are the meaning of the names, how parents decided to chose this name and etc.
- Have projects from topics from the Bible. For example we are reading, discussing, dancing, and playing the theater about the Noah ark
- Celebrate catholic fiestas (Like Easter, Christmas and etc.). The group room is situated in the Blessed J. Matulaitis parish house and church, so, sometimes we go to Saint Masses (usually, one a month).

The project appeals to the teaching of Catholic Church and Christian values, so it would be nice that these values would be acceptable for volunteers, but we are open to every young person.

How we work every day?

Daily activities are based on non formal education. This is kindergarten, not a school with strict tasks, most of the time children are playing and we stimulate them to be creative during these free games and we teach them how to behave in the group, how to respect and take care of each other. To conclude - we want let the kids to feel homey and enjoy their age and childhood.

What are the main characteristics of children?

The age of children are 2-6 years, so they speak only Lithuanian, some of them just started to develop their language skills.

Our approach to volunteers? Or what expectations do we have?

- The role of adults to preschool children is very important. They need to have someone to consult about something they are curious at the moment, to show what they have done or created (“look, I build a car”) or just to feel safe and to know that someone who can take care of you is always near. We see You as an adult, who, at the very beginning is the one, who just tries to be close the kids, say “labas” (Hello), observe the games kids are playing, to show for kids, that you are the person who takes care about their safety, so they can trust you.
- After this beginning phase, you will be able step by step to develop contacts and friendships with kids and INVOLVE in their games and simple chats – just play together.
- We, educators, are also the ones, who take care about the daily living needs, so, we really need You to help us with these daily duties, such as making beds, dishes, dress the kids and etc.

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PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS

We don't ask you to have a lot of experience in the field where you are applying. We don't ask you to have an educational degree or a high level of English (even if you can have all of that). But we ASK you to be motivated and be able to explain your motivation. We also ask you to be able to stay in Lithuania during all the time of a project that you chose. And you also should be 18-30 years old and never been a participant of long term EVS or ESC volunteering project.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION, MONEY

Project provides a travel costs reimbursement from volunteer country of residence to Lithuania and back home after the project. The amount of reimbursement depends on the distance between sending and hosting countries.

Volunteer will live in a shared apartment together with other volunteers or students. All the utilities are going to be payed by the organization.

Volunteers are going to be provided with monthly amount of food and pocket money and a local transportation monthly ticket.

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to apply for our project please send us a letter that involves:

- Your CV;
- Your motivation letter that explains why you are choosing the activity that you like;
- In the topic of the letter indicate the activity that you are applying for (e.g. Planet for Youth. DAY CARE CENTER FOR KIDS)

All the documents should be sent to the e-mail address evs.matulaicio@gmail.com.