

PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

Vilnius is the capital city of Lithuania. This city is economical and cultural center with over 600 thousand inhabitants. Since some of the best universities reside in Vilnius, there are a lot of students and young people in general in this city. Simply talking there are many things to do in the city. For more information about Vilnius, please, visit www.vilnius.lt.

The organization is called “Maltos ordino pagalbos tarnyba” (MOPT) (in English – Auxiliary Services of the Order of Malta). It is one of the major social aid non-profit organizations in the country. Project will be held in the main organization’s office in the city center. Inside the building there is one of the children Day care centers, administration office, kitchen with cooking facilities. There is a common room for the meetings or trainings. There is also a youth volunteers’ office, where the volunteers will get their own space. The organization is located in the main street in the city center near the old town. Primary activities will take place in the office; the rest of activities will be outside the office in different locations (e.g. visiting disabled people in different organizations or individually in their homes). The volunteers will work together with base staff of the organization as well as young local volunteers.

Proposed activities for EVS volunteers:

After the volunteer arrives he/she will be introduced with the proposed activities which will give him/her a good sense of what is happening within the NGO sector, what is social and youth work situation in Vilnius and Lithuania. The volunteer will be able to explore the leisure opportunities in the city, meet other EVS volunteers (he/she will be provided with guidance if needed).

The volunteers will be accommodated in an apartment. Usually 2 volunteers live in a two-room flat.

The volunteer will have a mentor who will be responsible for regular debriefings, learning process and support. The volunteer will have an opportunity to work alongside local volunteers and experience local style and traditions of volunteering. The activities are quite dynamic, i.e. they are in a constant development state, which allows and encourages the initiatives of every volunteer. It is good environment for diverse learning as well.

The role of the volunteer will be to work alongside social workers, youth leaders in the design and implementation of programs within the organization. The volunteer will also assist in the overall day-to-day activities of the organization with a supervision of the coordinator. This may involve some administration tasks and computer work.

The majority of the volunteer’s time will be spent working directly with children in the day care center. The volunteer will be spending time with children, creating sustainable relationships with them, planning and running daily activities, organizing trips and small projects together with children from the center, playing games, encouraging the children to participate actively in various activities and contributing to their personal growth.

Some videos of Children Day Care Center daily life can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClKrEDgHAzhPdOnXrZen03Q>

The volunteer will join the volunteers of Youth Maltesers in planning and organizing festivals and various charity events, summer camps, etc.

Some of the activities outside the children center in the organization are the following:

- Visits to children with mental and physical disabilities (schools, day care centers, support centers, home...)
- Projects with Youth Maltesers (visiting disabled kids, children with domestic problematic families, various social projects)
- Participating in a summer camp and rally as a leader.
- Helping blind people
- Art projects; Blogging; Multi Media; Video and Movie production
- Cooking programs; Health promotion
- Leisure activities

The ordinary week might look like this:

Monday – Friday - activities in the children day care center (14:00-18:00):

- 14:00 – 16:00 – cooking together with children, having lunch, helping with homework.
- 16:00 – 18:00 – leisure, doing crafts, playing, going outside, etc.

In the mornings or after activities with children in the center, the volunteer will join the activities mentioned above depending on his/her interests and capabilities. The working hours will be discussed with the volunteer.

The volunteer will have two days off in a week.

The activities take place at May 2015 and last until the end of February 2016.

Volunteer selection:

The candidates are expected to contact the organization and ask if it is looking for the volunteers at the moment. If he/she receives the confirmation, the volunteer is asked to produce CV and motivation letter. Some candidates can be asked for the online live conversation (e.g. Skype).

Volunteer profiles and recruitment process:

Our organization strives to be open to everybody. However we expect the volunteer to have some traits. It is important that the volunteer is willing to help whether it is children from the center, lonely elderly people or people with disabilities. We would also like volunteer to be open-minded, willing to take new challenges and be curious since new ideas and initiatives are always welcome within our organization. Even though we will try to provide enough support and give specific tasks for the volunteer, initiative and independence of the volunteer is very important and it is the basement of successful project.

Although we are Christian organization there are no requirements for the volunteers regarding religion. They are expected to respect the Christian ethos of our organization though.

Even though many tasks require some specific knowledge, there are no strict requirements for the volunteer regarding specific skills. The decision will be based on the volunteer's spirit, motivation, potential to give to the organization, potential to grow through the service; also character as well as his/her perception of this type of work and interest in this country as a place to live for a long term.

Number of volunteers to be hosted: 2.

The volunteer will have an access to the coordinator on a daily basis.

We will not be looking for the volunteers who are 16/17 years old.

MOTIVATION AND EVS EXPERIENCE

The MOPT is a sending organization since 2010 January and has already sent a number of EVS volunteers.

We're accredited as hosting and coordinating organization as well. We already had two EVS hosting projects (4 volunteers in total). We consider the projects to be successful. We are ready and willing to host volunteers and give them an opportunity to get experience working with children in different culture as well as being a part of initiative and socially responsible young community and being involved into other MOPT projects.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

The MOPT is an organization based on Christian values with the main goal of rendering humanitarian assistance to those who need it the most. The target group is people living in poverty.

The activities of the MOPT in Lithuania are based on volunteering. There are 26 groups all over Lithuania.

Main activities:

- "Meals on Wheels" – regular delivery of hot food to lonely elderly people across Lithuania. This way we help over 300 people.
- Home Care – regular visits to lonely elderly people and help them at home. We help in household chores, bring food from the store and get to the clinic or church, as well as provide moral support simply by communicating.
- Child day care centers. There are children day care centers in several cities of Lithuania. Children from poor or asocial risk families come there after school to experience positive and safe environment. They can do their homework, play and engage in other educational activities. The kids are provided with lunch too.
- Youth volunteers. There are communities of youth volunteers in many towns in Lithuania. They contribute to social assistance. Our programs are very much driven by the needs and interests of our volunteers.

In Vilnius we have strong community of Youth volunteers with more than 20 years of volunteering traditions. The main purpose – non-formal education through volunteering. Young volunteers conduct art programs for children with disabilities, organize education projects, visit elderly people, interact with children in foster homes, organize social campaigns, summer camps, etc.

These are the main activities of MOPT. However, there are some projects not mentioned here and new initiatives are always very welcome.

CONTACT DETAILS

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