Volunteer Placement Profile
Special Needs Assistant Volunteer

Ashanti School for the Deaf
Accra, Ghana
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Job Description

The Ashanti School for the Deaf has five departments: a kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, an assessment centre and a vocational training centre.

A volunteer as a education assistant for the hearing impaired at this placement would be required to help in many avenues of endeavour be it: fundraising, teaching English or French, teaching and/or assisting in the production of products to sell, (aimed at educational knowledge towards future employment for the students), conduction seminars on health and hygiene issues etc.

The school is also looking forward to expanding the school curriculum to include a computer science course in the near future.

Volunteers would have the opportunity to organize and implement after school activities with the children such as soccer practice, basketball, badminton and many other sports. There is no limit to the contributions a volunteer could make. It would all depend on you and the effort and commitment you would be willing to exert.

A volunteer as a education assistant for the hearing impaired does not need to have special training in any educational field, however those with a certificate in the health or a skill related field would be most welcome. A volunteer must have good communication skills, the ability to adapted quickly to a new environment and a true desire to help deaf people.

Volunteer Tasks Required

Work Related Assistant

A volunteer as a education assistant for the hearing impaired may be asked to help the students in the production of items to sell. The assistance of a foreign volunteer in this endeavour often provides encouragement for the students and increased enthusiasm towards learning their skill.

Administration Duties
A volunteer as a education assistant for the hearing impaired may be asked to help with administrative duties such as: up-dating records, creating a new filing system, taking inventory of supplies or helping to produce informative data on the facility's current endeavours for sponsors or possible future sponsors.

**Community Lectures**

A volunteer as a education assistant for the hearing impaired would be asked to help develop and implement educational lectures for the community in regards to: the support and care needed for deaf people, personal hygiene issues and knowledge on the prevention and/or care of diseases and illnesses prevalent in Ghana.

**Fundraising**

A volunteer would be expected to participate in any fundraising events. Money received would be contributed towards the costs of maintaining the facility and to buy any necessary supplies for their various teaching programs.

**Teaching Assistant**

A volunteer as a education assistant for the hearing impaired would be expected to help teachers in different divisions of learning whenever the need was required. Especially the learning of the English or French language, (depending on which language was the volunteer's native tongue) and other courses related to vocation training.
Organization Details

The Ashanti School for the Deaf serves approximately ten communities in the Ashanti region. Its MISSION is to help and encourage deaf and special needs (mobility issues) people to become independent and useful members of their communities.

The main OBJECTIVE is: to provide facilities for the early diagnosis, prompt and efficient treatment of those who have physical disabilities, to serve as an advocate for the promotion of legislation for the protection of the right of disadvantaged people in society and to organize programs for the treatment, education, training, empowerment and the general welfare for disabled / disadvantaged individuals.

The school works with deaf children from all over the Ashanti region. They conduct pre-school, primary school (ages 6-12), Junior Secondary School (12-15) and a vocational training program. The vocational school teaches tailoring, batik & tie & dye (cloth printing), kente weaving, home economy, catering and woodworking. All of the students board on campus.

The courses offered at the Centre is of two and half years duration and provides the students with free residential accommodation, vocational training and/or computer skills to enable them to become independent and self-sufficient. After graduation every student is given the basic tools necessary for them to be employed in their chosen field. Example: a sewing machine and materials to produce items for sale.

When the Organization was Founded

The Ashanti School for the Deaf in the Ashanti region is a voluntary non-profit organization. It was establish in Ghana in 1977 in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare to enhance the quality of life for the deaf and socially disadvantaged youth. The organization is managed by seven board of directors and a Centre manager appointed by the Department of Social Welfare.

How the Organization is Funded

The organization's principal source of funding is the Ghana National Trust Fund plus

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technical assistance from the Department of Social Welfare. However, this is inadequate to meet all the needs at the Centre and they therefore, depend on charitable donations and benevolent organizations. They also received donations of food items from the Catholic Relief Service and the Canadian Food for Children Program.
Placement Location Information

The Ashanti School for the Deaf is located in the fairly remote region of Jamasi-Ashanti, and is situated along side of a solid paved road within walking distance of two towns.

The school has four classrooms that included a dress making class, a batik (dyeing) class, a bead making class and a leather and shoe class. The placement has a boarding facility that also helps the student who do not have a place to stay. It has four rooms for the students and the head of the school - the principal who also lives there with his wife and children. There is also an office where administration takes place, as well as a conference room for meetings.

The placement is a big compound that also has a church where activities take place on sunday as well as evening church services. All the school buildings have been painted brown and there is a mango tree which people can sit under it for shade.

The placement is also trying to establish a career resource center, including a library, stocked with the necessary reading material and some computers for internet connectivity. The school also wants to construct teacher and staff quarters on the compound by the year 2015.

City Description

Accra is a vibrant city that is steeped in history. There is a historical lighthouse in the district of Jamestown; built in 1871, by the British. Climb to the top and enjoy the fantastic view of the Gold Coast. Note the traditional fishing boats and Fort Ussher. Observe the hustle and bustle of Jamestown.

Accra is home to the National Arts Market which provides an opportunity for volunteers to practice their bartering skills for paintings, carvings, bead work, fabric, and many other unique West African Arts.

There are many places to see in Accra. Why not visit one of the many museums? Accra also has an eclectic music scene, with a good beat to be found on almost every corner.
Activities in and around Accra include biking, swimming, catching a soccer game, drumming, dancing lessons, art lessons, and much more.

Points of Interest

Accra was settled by the Ga people and along with Twi, Ga is a common language spoken amongst its residents. Accra was one of the main slave trade centers in Africa with many nations setting up outposts here. Forts still exist in Jamestown and Osu, and are common tourist destinations. People can climb the lighthouse in Jamestown which provides a great view of Accra.

Accra has been the capital of Ghana since the 1870s. As the capital and a major city in West Africa, Accra has a diverse population from many of the surrounding regions.

Weather in the Area

The dry season in Ghana is from September to March and temperatures generally range from 25-40 degrees Celsius. The rainy season begins in April and lasts until August and the temperature is a bit cooler at 20-35 degrees Celsius. As the name of the season suggests, rainfall increases dramatically throughout these months. It is generally not constant rain, but when it does rain, it usually pours.

Often the weather can change throughout the day. At one moment it is very hot and the next moment it is pouring rain. Volunteers are advised to bring a good waterproof jacket while in this area.

Transportation From BaseCamp

Volunteers will travel from the BaseCamp Center (Pink Hostel) by taxi or tro tro (public transportation) to the VIP Bus Terminal, which depending on traffic will take between eight to ten minutes. From there volunteers will take a bus to the city of Kumasi, usually taking between four to five hours.

Our regional coordinator will be there to meet you at the station. The coordinator will take you to your homestay which is about a 45min drive.
Accommodation and Meals

All of our volunteers begin their stay in Ghana at our BaseCamp Center in Accra. Given that this placement is more than a 1 hour 15 minute commute from BaseCamp, volunteers here will be living with a host family after your orientation. Living with a host family is an awesome experience for a person looking to really experience Ghana and its culture.

The following information outlines a brief description of life at BaseCamp and also what someone can expect living with a host family in Ghana.

If you think that living with a host family is not for you, then this placement might not be the best fit with what you are looking for. You should try completing our application. It's totally free and will allow our team in Ghana to come up with a list of exactly which placements they would recommend for you based on your personal preferences, background, skills and interests.
The BaseCamp Center in Accra is a hostel situated in the residential neighbourhood of Asylum Down. This is a relaxing and peaceful area, away from the continuous activity and hubbub of the tourist district, but central enough that we are within walking distance of many attractions in Accra including the National Museum, Kwame Nkrumah Circle and Adabraka Market.

The centre itself is a three-story building with several dormitory rooms. There are also several quiet areas where volunteers can study and relax including a covered area outside. There is an internet cafe, allowing volunteers to stay in touch with friends and family abroad. In addition to this, free WIFI can be accessed throughout the building.
All volunteers spend their orientation in this centre when they first arrive in Ghana. The workshops and language training take place in this building as well although each day we incorporate outings to learn about the area and how to get around independently.
Living With a Host Family

Living with a host family in Ghana is a fantastic way to gain a deep understanding of and appreciation for the people and customs of the country. Each home-stay will provide a bed and three meals per day for our volunteers. The majority of host families offer private rooms with only one or two volunteers living with the family.

Living with a host family can greatly enhance your performance at your placement. For one, it will have a huge influence on the speed with which you gain familiarity with the local language. This, along with your deeper understanding of cultural practices and beliefs that you are likely to gain in this environment, can go a long way to improving or strengthening your relationships with your team mates at work. Furthermore, a significant percentage of our host families are closely affiliated with the organizations with which our volunteers work. As such, even the evening meal or hanging out around the house can become valuable time during which volunteers can share their ideas and continue their support of their host organization.

All of this being said, living with a host family is not for everyone. It is very important for volunteers to honor the house rules in their host family and to be punctual. Also,
depending on how remote your placement location, host families can be very rustic. Our staff in country can give you a better idea of what exactly you can expect from a host family in any particular community. However, in general, if these things sound like they might pose a challenge for you, we strongly suggest that you look at a placement within commuting distance from BaseCamp Ghana.
How the Program Works

Our program structure and costing is completely flexible which lets our volunteers ensure that they only pay for exactly the degree of support that they want.

Option 1 - Free Services

Some volunteers prefer to coordinate their own accommodation, meals and other support while overseas.

Anyone is welcome to use our volunteer placement search tool to help in finding a placement that is well suited to their interests. Once someone finds a placement that they wish to work with, they are welcome to make all the rest of their arrangements on their own.

As well, our team of staff overseas are often able to offer a few helpful pointers for volunteers 'doing it on their own'. Just send us an email with your questions and we will put you in touch with our team abroad. We only ask that you keep your requests fairly general, as this type of advice is exactly how our team earn their living. :)

Option 2 - Placement Support - 250 USD

Other volunteers would like assistance in selecting and confirming their placement, but they plan to manage their own accommodation and other expenses on their own.

These volunteers have the option of choosing to only have our assistance with selecting and confirming their placement. This option also includes ongoing placement support while abroad, so a volunteer would be able to ask our team for help if things at their placement were not working out.

In providing Placement Support, our team works with each volunteer through email, telephone and either Skype or Google Hangouts, to ensure that each volunteer has a clear understanding of their placement options. Our in-country staff will put together a custom list of placement options for each volunteer that they believe are the most appropriate matches with the volunteer's background, skills and interests.
Then each volunteer can work with our team both in Canada and abroad to go through each of the options and narrow-down their selection.

**Option 3 - Full Program Support**

For most volunteers who are volunteering for less than a year, they are looking for an option that includes their accommodation, meals, airport reception, country and program orientation and placement support. This is what our Program Fees are designed for.

We are proud of how over the years we have ensured that our program fees are amongst the most reasonable of any program in the world while we continue to provide exceptional volunteer support both at home and abroad.

Our Program Fees and listings of what these do and do not include are listed below:
# Program Fees Ghana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Fee</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Week</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Weeks</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Weeks</td>
<td>815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Weeks</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Weeks</td>
<td>1,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Weeks</td>
<td>1,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Weeks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Weeks</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All program fees are listed in US Dollars.
Inclusions & Exclusions

What is Included

- Pre-Departure support
- Placement consultation
- Airport reception & transfer
- 2 Day orientation
- Accommodation (BaseCamp or host family)
- Breakfast and dinner
- Emergency & placement support

What is Not Included

Before Departure

- International flight
- Travel medical insurance
- Visa costs where required
- Work permits where required

While Overseas

- Daily transportation to and from placement
- Transport to airport on departure
- Placement fees if required
Program Dates

The following is a list of all months during which this placement is not available.

- July
- August

Our regularly scheduled program start dates are the first Friday of each month, every month of the year. We strongly recommend beginning your program on one of these dates as this will allow you to go through our orientation alongside other international volunteers.

If you would prefer, our application will also allow you to select a custom start date for your program. Keep in mind that there is an additional fee for a custom start date which ranges from 50 to 75 USD.

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Nov 01, 2019       Dec 06, 2019       Jan 03, 2020
Feb 07, 2020       Mar 06, 2020       Apr 03, 2020
May 01, 2020       Jun 05, 2020       Jul 03, 2020
Aug 07, 2020       Sep 04, 2020       Oct 02, 2020
Nov 06, 2020       Dec 04, 2020       Jan 01, 2021
Feb 05, 2021       Mar 05, 2021       Apr 02, 2021
May 07, 2021       Jun 04, 2021       Jul 02, 2021
Aug 06, 2021       Sep 03, 2021       Oct 01, 2021
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PLEASE NOTE:

These dates are the day that volunteers should plan to arrive on the ground in country. We can accommodate arrivals in-country at any time day or night on these dates.