

## VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### FOR THE CHILDREN AT BODHI TREE SPECIAL SCHOOL



It is indeed a pleasure for the foundation to present Volunteer placement opportunities for all those who are willing to either Volunteer with our project for the children with special needs or want to be reference for the Volunteers willing to looking for placement in the light of their skills and spirit.

The placement highlights some of the positions and sample activities however we lend scope for Volunteers to experiment their innovations and creativities. This project is reflection of our long-term concerns for the children with special needs from multiple communities in Bodhgaya region of India.

Our foundation is greatly moved by radical contributions of global Volunteers in its diverse projects over the years. We encourage the Volunteers to tailor any activities that might help kids with special needs. Education or work experience in early childhood education, physical or occupational therapy, dance, music or art skills are a plus and placements can be specialized in the line of those skills. However, spirit matters most.

Volunteers should be open, flexible, patient, passionate, and creative and come with a spirit of collaboration and solidarity as well as be willing to get integrated into spirits and vibrations of the project.

To help you better understand the wide variety of activities that you can Volunteer for, we have outlined 14 areas:

## Types of Volunteers & the Activities you can get involved with:

- 1/. Special Needs Assistant Volunteer
  - 2/. Special Needs Assistant job Activity Coordinator
  - 3/. Administration Support volunteers
  - 4/. Teaching Assistance Volunteers
  - 5/. Fundraising and volunteers for visibility
  - 6/. Volunteers for Therapeutic Art Program
  - 7/. Volunteers for Musical Artistic Development
  - 8/. Speech Therapist
  - 9/. Volunteering on an Occupational Therapy placement
  - 10/. Volunteering for Nutrition Services
  - 11/. Volunteers for Physiotherapy
  - 12/. Volunteering for Yoga
  - 13/. Volunteering for Art Therapy
  - 14/. Group Volunteer Programs
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- The Role of Social Groups

### 1/. Special Needs Assistant Volunteer

#### Volunteer Job Description

The students ranging in age from 5 to 15 years old with learning disabilities /development disability or Down syndrome are the majority of our project. Each student is taught at their own intellectual level. Special Needs Assistant Volunteers, will work in close coordination with special educators at the project.

The school offers various forms of therapies and activities including Psychological treatment, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy, Creative Therapy, disability specific sporting events, Art Therapy and Yoga Therapy.

We encourage volunteers to help us create a warm and educational environment for children with disabilities. Volunteers are needed to help with the daily routine, create and facilitate new activities and initiatives. A special needs assistant Volunteer would also be expected to help with cooking lessons, computer lessons, sports and physical activity classes and other creative activities.

No specialized educational requirements are needed for a special needs assistant volunteer at this placement. However, experience working with people that have learning disabilities and/or Down-Syndrome would be a plus. Volunteers must be mature and patient individuals who understand that sometimes repetitive lessons may be required.

### 2/. Special Needs Assistant Job Activity Coordinator

#### Volunteer Job Description

A special needs assistant activity coordinator would be expected to work with children from 4 years old up to 16.

When Volunteers first arrive at this placement they work alongside Socio-Psycho therapist and special educators to get fully prepared to participate in the activities expected of them when required. Step by step, Volunteers will focus on making bonds with the students and learning what activities are beneficial and how to go about doing the activities with either the younger children or teens.

When new Volunteers become adapted and have some experience, they will be given the chance to work more closely with the students and will be a great help to the therapist, with whom they will be working.

If they have other interests like art, music or sports you can also work in these areas. The school has activities such as football games, swimming and basketball games.

#### **Volunteers Tasks:**

**A/. Interact with the Children :** To interact with the children is one of the main aims of a Special Needs Assistant Volunteer. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to organize fun games and other activities, (singing, dancing) for their free time. Remember to keep a close watch that all can participate in whatever you have chosen for them to do and that the activity encourages friendly group participation.

**B/. Team Participation :** In order for all to get the most benefit from your Volunteer contribution you need to interact with skilled staff in the field and special educators; to brain-storm different approaches regarding the care and treatment of these special needs children.

**C/. Prepare Classes with special educators :** One of the duties of a Special Needs Assistant Volunteer would be to get together with the special educators and plan the next day's activities; be it class work, homework assignments, types of fun projects or games. Be sure you prepare your part in the day's schedule ahead of time. Remember the more actively you get involved in the greater the rewards for all concerned.

**D./ Supervision of Children :** One of the most important tasks in this job as a Special Needs Assistant Volunteer is to always keep the children in a safe environment and make sure they are participating in safe games and activities according to their level of capability. In other words, be on guard at all times for their safety and well being.

### **3./ Administration Support volunteers**

Administration Support Volunteer 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 endeavors for sponsors or possible future sponsors.

### **4./ Teaching Assistance Volunteers**

Teaching Assistance Volunteers would be expected to help teachers in different divisions of learning wherever the need was required. These volunteers are expected to work close to special educators and share the responsibilities for class productivity.

### **5./ Fundraising and volunteers for visibility**

These Volunteers are encouraged to participate in any fundraising events or the events that help in ensuring visibility of the projects. Money received would contribute towards the cost of maintaining the facility and to buy any necessary supplies for their various teaching programs. The project is also committed to have a monthly newsletter and the Volunteers may help us in the line of effort.

### **6./ Volunteers for Therapeutic Art Program**

Supporting children aged 8+ with music, art, dance and craft activities.

### **7./ Volunteers for Musical Artistic Development**

For the under 12s, developing their creativity and freedom of expression.

## **8/. Speech Therapist**

If you want to gain experience in Speech Therapy while helping local disabled children with special needs, you will be placed with children with different communication disorders including autism, intellectual disabilities and cerebral palsy.

The staff is composed of qualified professionals in the fields of intellectual disabilities, hearing impairment, psychology, social work, physiotherapy amongst others. This program may be a great choice for undergraduate and graduate students, ages 18 and up that are interested in pursuing a career as a speech-language pathologist (SLPs) or audiologist.

This is an ideal program for students who want to learn more about their chosen field and gain a high quality, creative, and pedagogically sound experience that goes beyond the classroom.

### **Role of the volunteer**

We expect a skilled volunteer to help the children to improve the clarity of speech and acquire psychomotor skills. The volunteers will also have the opportunity to come up with their own ideas and activities. They may have opportunities to interact with some local speech therapists that might give an insight of diversity in intercultural frame.

## **9/. Volunteering on an Occupational Therapy placement**

You will work with children with a range of mental disabilities. You may support our staff and assist with tasks such as helping to assess patients, assisting with therapy sessions, providing guidance on how to improve particular skills, and demonstrating techniques to teachers and caregivers.

## **10/. Volunteering for Nutrition Services**

Nutrition Services should be provided throughout life in a manner that is interdisciplinary, family-centered, community based, and culturally competent. Despite this, the communities we are working with are extremely down trodden with very low income. Taking the children with special needs into equation, we provide them fruits and other nutritional ingredients that are within our fiscal competence.

The breakfast is rich in vitamins and micronutrients while the lunch is rich in protein and carbohydrates. The children with mental health illness have the probability to encounter risk factors requiring nutrition interventions, including growth alterations (failure to thrive, obesity, or growth retardation), metabolic disorders and poor feeding skills. We do not have residential facilities, so children spend about five hours a day with us. The communities we are working with do not work on a family planning mode.

Another surprising fact is the attitude of parents who have children with special needs. They potentially consider the normal children assets while the children with disability are liabilities. Hygienic conditions worsen the equation of health. The project is working very hard to ensure hygienic conditions of the children with special needs. The children with special needs are also more likely to develop conditions, such as obesity or endocrine disorders that require nutrition interventions. Poor nutrition-related health habits and almost little or no access to services mount the possibilities.

We encourage the volunteers to first research and map cost effective measures that fall in the line of fiscal competence of the project.

## **11/. Volunteers for Physiotherapy**

We are looking for Volunteers having skills in Physiotherapy for some of the children having conditions such as cerebral palsy, clubfoot and spinal injuries.

Volunteering in a developing country gives a unique cultural and work experience, a constructive and giving role from which the Volunteer gains new skills and perspective.

The Volunteers will need to adapt to very different work practices, conditions and fit into a local team. There is much to learn by giving your skills and time in developing countries, and with some thought you can identify a productive role which is rewarding, constructive and educational.

## 12/. Volunteering for Yoga

The Volunteers with some skills though not necessary certified or diploma may like to look for placement with our project. We recommend some breathing sessions and stretches and postures to be included.

### Conditions covered:

- Asthma
- ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)
- ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)
- Diabetes
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Digestive issues
- Eating disorders
- Limited mobility

## 13/. Volunteering for Art Therapy

Art is important to the development of all children, but it is particularly valuable to children with disabilities. When creating art, the child is building a wide variety of skills – both motor and cognitive. The various sensory experiences involved in art production are positive and pleasurable sensations. Additionally, the creative process provides opportunities for expressing ideas and emotions, which can sometimes be difficult for the child with disabilities.

For a child with special needs, expressive art can foster relaxation, focus and a sense of accomplishment while working on a creative project. The arts are an increasingly popular way for children with special needs to overcome difficulties and take pride in a new skill.

It's important to have patience when helping special needs students with art projects. Reacting with impatience may cause the special needs child undue anxiety and make the task far less pleasurable. The Volunteers involved together with special educators will assist in conducting art therapy for the children with learning disabilities and behaviour disorders.

## 14/. Group Volunteer Programs

All of our programs focus on our commitment to sustainable, ethical, humble and radical contributions. Our professional team may easily help to tailor the activities that utilizes your skills, interests and group needs.

Our volunteer groups are highly valued, and have the opportunity to make a long and sustainable impact. We are able to develop shorter programs; some can be as short as 1 week in length, which is generally not possible for individual volunteers. Although a shorter program might suit your group better the impact is felt no less, as groups of volunteers can achieve amazing things in a relatively short period of time.

## The Role of Social Groups

We encourage social establishments to Volunteer with us. The foundation specializes in screening activities in accordance with time for Volunteers to contribute to multiple projects for cross communities of children from villages. We are unlike other organizations looking for prescribed skills or age.

We practice very different insight in this regard. Apart from resurrecting well beings of the children with multiple mental health challenges, we are also working hard on behavioral and attitudinal shifts of the communities towards these children who are recognized in the community by the kind of disability. We consider volunteers from social organizations imperatively critical in rightful rehabilitation of these children in their communities.

When the parents of these children see Volunteers from other countries sharing most genuine love with these children, they are radically moved. These children are not supposed to spend their whole life with us hence our approach is directed towards practicing inclusive tools. Our major endeavor is to mobilize the communities of this region of India that children are all blessed and these children are differently blessed and differently abled. These children are the worst victims of discrimination. The parents do want them to join gatherings or ceremonies.

We find social establishments crucial stakeholders to take this movement to another level of understandings. The global organizations that mirror the spirit of appreciation for such children may bring intercultural insight to our campaign.

## SCHOOL & COLLEGE GROUPS

One of the best ways to learn is to get involved and have experiences outside the classroom. Group projects can benefit students of all ages. In this northern region of India, as a student you will have greater insight of structural diversities.

We are sure here you will have more exposures to stunning facts and agitating realities that will deepen and broaden your understanding of much needed assertive effort the world needs for harmony and equality. Diversity of faiths, orientations, and sciences of social patterns and variation of communication practices would bring you to appreciate diversity

## CORPORATE GROUPS

More practical than any team building session, and perhaps more meaningful, responsible companies can develop the skills of their staff to make a difference while making a sustainable contribution to this part of the world.