



Project “Youths for Youths
Pass forward! ”
done in 2008
co-financed
by
the Town Council of



Youths for Youths

pass forward!



pass forward !

“In the beginning I just wanted to do something that would be good and a little bit crazy. Ten years ago everybody said I had to be insane to decide to be a missionary. I had a chance to meet the reality of missions something that can not be compared to anything else, something that had opened my eyes and made me look at my life from a totally different perspective. I just fell in love with Africa, with those poor people who were so welcoming and shared with us everything they had. They seemed so joyful, though according to our European criteria, they had nothing. It was my will I simply decided that I wanted to help other people. I have received lots of things in my life, so I want to give a lot.”

Joanna Stożek, board secretary she's working in SWM Youth for the World from the very beginning.

“Yesterday I met my graduation group. One of my friends is studying at the elite department of the university, another one is doing two faculties at a time, a boy that was sitting in front of me is making real his dream about a career as an actor. Somebody is doing American studies, another one political science... They are finishing the second year at the university. And me? Three weeks ago I came back from Peru. My granny says: “Well... you have lost two years at the university”. But I look backwards, and seeing a recent year and a half, I cannot agree. I did not lose two years at the university I gained this time in Peru.”

Elżbieta Jakubek just after final school exams she went to Peru. Since April 2007 she's working in SWM Youth for the World as a volunteers coordinator.

law regulations

The term „volunteer” has been introduced by the Act of Law of April 24th 2003 on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work (Journal of Law, No. 96, item 873). According to the article 2, clause 3 any person who provides benefits voluntarily and at no remuneration under terms and conditions of this Act of Law is called “volunteer.” Now we will look into this act carefully as it answers many questions and regulates many issues connected with volunteers as well as the beneficiaries.

1. Who can be a volunteer?

Any person both those of age and under-age and immigrants staying legally in Poland can become a volunteer. In case of the under-age people they need a written consent of their parents or guardians and in case of immigrants they don't need a work permit. Voluntary work can also be done by unemployed as it does not mean they will lose the status of being unemployed or the right to the allowance.

2. Who can benefit from voluntary work?

Non-governmental organizations. Most of these organizations benefit from the voluntary work who work for the public benefit in the field of social work, health care system, education and ecology. Non-governmental international organizations which operate in Poland can also benefit from the voluntary work.

All public administration units and their branches can benefit from the voluntary work. A volunteer who is engaged in such places can learn the rules of governing the country and managing big national institutions. He also has the chance to cooperate with experienced workers. Volunteers can help in the following fields: social work, health care system, physical rehabilitation, job counselling, culture, justice, education, sports and tourism, social rehabilitation.

- Local authority organizations unions.
- Church organizations which provide public benefit work.

Those entities cannot benefit from the voluntary work that run any business activities.

meetings

introductory

All who want to participate in our activities and become volunteers are welcome to come to introductory meetings which are held once a month. You will have the chance to learn about our projects done in Poland and abroad; you will know the rules of cooperating and choose the field which suits you best. All meetings are once a month on Friday evening and the national workshop follows them.

The dates of the meetings in 2008:

- 8th February 2008
- 14th March 2008
- 4th April 2008
- 30th May 2008
- 27th June 2008
- 24th October 2008
- 21st November 2008
- 12th December 2008



meetings

Weekly meetings

Volunteers from Kraków and the area are welcome to weekly meetings to share ideas, plans and activities. You can talk about knowledge and skills, you can do a lecture on some interesting topic or you can do workshops on any topic you want. The meeting always begins with the Mass for missionaries, missions, volunteers and donors of SWM. The meetings are held every Monday at 18.00 Mass and at 19.00 meeting at Tyniecka 39, Kraków

Weekend meetings

Every month we are having monthly meetings of volunteers from all over Poland. Their aim is to train, introduce new volunteers and integrate. They play an important role in preparing volunteers to foreign missions; you can learn about our national and international projects; and of course they allow all volunteers to meet and stay in touch. The meetings comprise the lectures, presentations and workshops in the following fields: missiology, tropical medicine, pedagogy, psychology, interpersonal communication and Salesian spirituality. The meetings with missionaries and volunteers who worked on foreign missions make a very important advertising campaign among to-be volunteers. Sometimes we organize big cultural or charity events like Orawa for the Children of Africa, A Volunteer Day in Małopolska. They give you a chance to join our actions and do some specific projects.

Dates of weekend meetings:

9–10 February 2008

15–16 March 2008

5–6 April 2008

31 May– 1 June 2008

28–29 June 2008

24–26 October 2008

21–23 November 2008

12–14 December 2008

to be a volunteer

Being a volunteer means providing public benefit work at no remuneration surpassing family and friendship bonds. That means everyone can become a volunteer no matter their profession, sex, nationality, age. It is as simple as that. And you can be one of us!

There are many types of voluntary work and it can be classified basing on some criteria. The most important is the duration of the work done by a volunteer. There are two types: long-term work and short-term work called action working. And within the second type of work we have a single participation in one action or permanent support of one single action whenever it takes place. If we talk about the place of the voluntary work we distinguish between national and international ones. And if we think about people we can talk about student volunteers and employees (we should remember that unemployed and pensioners can be volunteers, too.)

Each volunteer does his work according to his/her abilities and hobbies so when you want to join some organization working for the public benefit you should consider its mission, projects, beneficiaries. And what's more, the benefits of such work are two-sided for the organization as well as the volunteer himself.

Volunteer work is the chance to:

- Gain new experience
- Meet interesting people
- Work with interesting people
- experience job satisfaction
- Develop ones skills
- Being a part of an important project
- Be in contact with people in need
- Use ones skills and acquire new
- Know weak and strong sides
- Learn team work
- Get management skills
- Experience adventure of a lifetime
- And many, many more.....



become a volunteer

on a mission

Some of us go to work in different missions scattered all over the world and they fulfill their dreams, get valuable experience but most of all they share their life with those they help at the time. Doing abroad missionary work we live with the people we help while performing specific tasks and we are living witnesses to Christ's love to people.

Moreover, we:

- Teach at schools
- Run homes for the children of the street
- Run afternoon classes for children and teenagers
- Cure and take care of the sick
- Design and build medical centers, schools
- Are tutors,
- Do cathetical projects
- Organize and build local social life.

What do you need to go to a foreign mission?

- Motivation and natural abilities to this kind of work
- Good command of the national language spoken in the target country
- You must be over 18 years old
- Financial means to cover the costs of insurance, vaccinations and ticket to the mission (SWM cooperates in these tasks)
- You must be an active member and volunteer of SWM in Poland for over a year and you must take part in all meetings and workshops
- The final decision whether you are ready to go is made by the voluntary work director.



law regulations

3. Rights of the volunteer:

- A volunteer is eligible for compensations in case of accident when providing volunteer services. (the beneficiary shall take out casualty insurance for any volunteer providing benefits for a period not longer than 30 days;
- Depending on the will of the organization, the volunteer may be eligible for health care benefits on terms and conditions laid out in legal regulations on general health insurance;
- Upon the demand of the volunteer, the beneficiary shall be obliged to confirm the content of the agreement in writing, and to issue a written confirmation and an opinion on benefits provided;
- The beneficiary is obliged to notify the volunteer on his/her rights and responsibilities and to ensure access to these information;
- The beneficiary notifies of any risk to health and safety stemming from the process of providing benefits, and on the rules of protection against occupational threats and hazards;
- The beneficiary provides safe and hygienic conditions of benefits provisions;
- The beneficiary covers costs of business travel and per diems;
- The beneficiary may also cover other costs covered by the volunteer when providing benefits and costs of training.

4. Responsibilities of the volunteer

The volunteer has to be qualified and conform to all requirements appropriate in the light of the type and scope of benefits provided (especially when the duty of such qualifications stems from separate legal provisions, e.g. in case of medical services to the homeless people). However, usually the volunteer does not have to hold specific qualifications, professional experience, language or computer skills. Good will and free time will do. The volunteer is also obliged to fulfill undertaken tasks. Even if the agreement did not take the written form, and he/she does not receive financial gratification, he/she is responsible for his/her duties.

5. Agreement

The basis of cooperation with a volunteer is an agreement. It defines the scope, the manner, and the time frame of providing benefits. The agreement contains a clause of allowing for the termination. In case of benefits provided for more than 30 days, the agreement should be prepared in writing. If the agreement provide for the volunteer to be delegated to provide benefits on the territory of another state as per an international agreement binding to the Republic of Poland, such volunteer is eligible for reimbursement for benefits and costs related according to generally accepted standards in the field, unless international agreements stipulate otherwise.

law regulations

6. Volunteer's insurance:

Compensation In case of accidents: Beneficiary is obliged to provide a volunteer with compensation in case of accidents and casualties should such benefit be shorter than the period of 30 days. If the volunteer provides his services for a longer period of time than 30 days the beneficiary is discharged from this obligation as the volunteer is covered by the Act of Law of 30th October 2002 on social insurance against accidents at work and occupational disease (Journal of Laws No. 199, item 1674 with later amendments.)

Liability insurance: The Act of Law on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work does not regulate any issues connected with liability insurance. However, the volunteer is a part in the civil agreement and as such he/she is liable to civil proceedings if he violates the terms of the contract or commits any unlawful acts. It is thus advisable for the beneficiary to consider the liability insurance for the volunteer when assigned to a specific action. There is also the possibility for the volunteer himself to buy such insurance. One must remember that such insurance is optional and both interested parties should agree to it.

Health insurance: According to the article 46 item 1 volunteer may be eligible for health care benefits on terms and conditions laid out in legal regulations on general health insurance. According to the article 11 item 1a of the Act of Law of 23rd January 2003 on obligatory national health insurance in the National Health care agency (Journal of Laws of 2003 No. 45, item 391 with later amendments.) beneficiary may provide the volunteer with this kind of insurance if the volunteer hasn't already been insured. The beneficiary is obliged to cover necessary insurance contribution counted on the lowest national salary rate. According to the article 11 item 4a on the obligatory insurance in the National Healthcare Agency the volunteer is eligible for the health insurance beginning on the day between the beneficiary and the agency and is valid until after the termination of the contract. The contribution is paid by the Social Insurance Agency. If the beneficiary decides to cover the costs of insurance then they must notify the agency.

Social Security: Both the beneficiary and the volunteer do not pay the social security insurance contribution as the Act of Law of 13 October 1998 on social security system (Journal of Laws 1998 No.137, item 887 with later amendments) does not oblige the volunteer to be covered by such insurance.

become a volunteer

in Poland

Everyone can be a volunteer of SWM no matter their age or profession. You can contribute your work either to short-termed actions or long-termed ones. You have the chance to share your skills and abilities and what's more, develop new interests and gain new experience. We offer in-service trainings for our volunteers as well as workshops, conferences and many others.

You can do:

- global education: preparing educational materials, lessons' plans, guidelines for teachers, conducting classes within informal education scope and in African Village, educational games, workshops, exhibitions
- works hops and trainings: preparing and doing In-service training
- Organization of events, parties, conferences: cooperating in organization of "Global Education Week" and "Volunteers' Day of Małopolska", "Missionary Days in Parishes"
- Translating into English/Polish, German, Spanish, Italian, French
- Journalism: preparing and editing texts, contacting media
- Marketing: preparing and distributing advertising brochures, book, films,
- Project work: "Love Adoption" program
- Office work: administration work on grants, association documents, data base
- Others: taking part in missionary work, money raising actions

If you have some ideas how to help and improve our work share them! We are waiting for you!