

BECOME A PART OF VOLUNTEERING IN MARIABERG E.V.

Marienberg e.V. is a diaconal social service institution located in the south of Germany. Our facility offers different services for people of all ages, from early childhood to senior citizens, who suffer from disabilities and social deprivation.

Marienberg e.V. is located in a touristic region called “Schwäbische Alb“, an area with its typical hills, gorgeous woodlands and valleys with little meandric rivers. The “Schwäbische Alb” is part of a beautiful countryside in a rural area which is thinly populated.

If you consider yourself a highly social person, that wants to support people with disabilities and likes to do outdoor activities (hiking, skiing, climbing, mountain biking, etc.), Marienberg e.V. is the right place for you.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for 4 European Volunteers who would like to join our European Solidarity Corps-Project “**YES – Youth engage in Solidarity**”. Depending on your availabilities and the development of Corona pandemic, we would like to start as soon as possible. With a duration of at least 6 and at the maximum 12 months, your stay could take place between September 2020 and January 2022.

You can choose one of the following areas for your voluntary service:

- Organic farming on “BIOLAND-Hof” (with people with disabilities)
- Residential housing group for young people with disabilities
- Other areas are possible upon agreement (f.e. school for people with disability, kindergarten (earliest possible start in March 2021))



Please find the detailed description of the working fields, volunteer tasks, accommodation, pocket money etc. below.

HERE IS WHAT IT TAKES

- Aged between 18 and 30 years and legally residing in one of the participating countries of the ESC
- Ability to carry out tasks highly responsibly and motivated
- A certain autonomy for getting along in a foreign country
- Open-mindedness and tolerance. In this context, it is also important to mention that participants should not be afraid of people with disabilities and have outstanding skills in social interaction
- There should also be a great interest in learning German and to integrate in the community
- A driver's license would be great, but it's not obligatory



AIMS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR PROJECT

By launching this project, we want to contribute to a European community of values, strengthen the cohesion and promote the consolidation of Europe. Participating in our project, volunteers can enhance their language skills, gain hands-on experience abroad, strengthen their self-reliance and self-confidence and experience inclusion by working with people with disabilities. By joining the activities of the project the volunteers should be offered the opportunity to deal with the history of Germany, to understand how important a solidary basic idea and intercultural understanding is. One of our aims is also to use the wide variety of Mariaberg, to connect the volunteers with young people from other nations, to make friendship and to give the idea of inclusion and equal opportunities. We want our volunteers to create their own thoughts on these topics and to build up ideas for a solidarity network. Our volunteers should be enabled to develop on a personal, professional, intercultural level and acquire skills that facilitate their integration into the labour market and employment.

HOW TO APPLY

The application process includes 2 mandatory steps:

1. Register at the [European Solidarity Corps PASS-Tool](#) and search for our organization.
2. Send your application by Email to: s.brotzer@mariaberg.de

Application DEADLINE for all candidates is July, 17th,2020.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Pocket money: each volunteer receives 5€ per day (~150€ per month), paid monthly by bank transfer. Upon arrival the volunteer will be paid pocket money for the first month in advance.

Basic consumer products (shampoo/toilet paper/cleaning products/etc.): Mariaberg will pay for all the articles, which will be provided to the volunteers.

Food: each volunteer receives 8,37 € for food per day, paid monthly by bank transfer. Upon arrival the volunteer will be paid food allowance money for the first month in advance.

Accommodation: The volunteers share a flat with other young people working in Mariaberg (other volunteers, trainees,...) Some of the other young people are also from foreign countries, some are from Germany. The flats have usually 5 bedrooms (each with a bed and a small closet, table and chair), a big kitchen with a dining area, 2 bathrooms, a washing machine, 2 separate toilets and a common room.

The flats are located in Mariaberg or in the city of Gammertingen (5 km away). The rooms are allocated depending on availability. As usual in shared flats, there will be a cleaning plan with weekly changing responsibilities.

Living costs (cost of water, electricity, internet, etc.) will be covered by the hosting organization with a limit not exceeding 80 € per month (depending on the heating season).

Local transport: a monthly ticket for the local public transport to reach the working area and to be flexible in the region will be provided. For special leisure group activities, the volunteers can borrow a company car, if they have a valid driver's license and in consultation with the mentor.

CONTACT PERSONS

Guiding person: each volunteer has a separate guiding person who works in the same working field. The guiding person takes care of everyday matters and offers support and help where needed.

Mentor: The next level of support is the mentor whose duties mainly contain administrative work on a superior level and who has no relation to the working departments. The mentor supports with personal problems or challenges of everyday life. The person is responsible for comprehensive solidarity activities and organizes frequent meetings with the volunteers. In case of emergency you can call this person day and night.

If you have any questions before the start, you are welcome to contact your mentor:

Ms Sina Brotzer

Tel: +49 7124 923 9265

Email: s.brotzer@mariaberg.de

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF WORKING FIELDS

One of the activities of the program are different tasks in the daily work of the respective working fields. The participants should be integrated in the daily work routine and thus get a realistic impression of the work. They will deal intensively with the attitude of the employees, the mission statement of the institution, the principles of work in the host country and different working methods and approaches. Very deliberately and reflexively, they should relate and compare this with their previous work and personal experience. The volunteers are invited to actively deal with their learning objectives and learning requirements and to demand the relevant talks and contents from the contact persons. In all areas of activity, the volunteers will get in touch with people with disabilities (physically and mentally) and this will expand important values in everyday life such as inclusion, tolerance and helpfulness.

1. RESIDENTIAL HOUSING GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

“Not only residential space, but living space.” According to this central idea, we think and act in Mariaberg. It is important for us to offer a fine differentiation according to the assistance model that is oriented towards our clients. Therefore, support is provided exactly where help is needed. Especially for the children and adolescents with disabilities it is important to create perspectives which we achieve through a trusting, open atmosphere and a wide range of comprehensive support services.

To be there for the clients, when the help is needed, there are special working hours in all residential housing groups:

- splitted working hours: 07:30-09:30 am and 04:00-08:00 pm
- early and late shifts: your work either from 06:30am-02:30pm or from 02:00-08:00pm

Like in every other working field, the volunteers have to work 5 days a week. In this case it is possible that you have to work on weekends sometimes, but then other days during the week are free. The volunteers will work 30 hours a week in the residential housing, 4 additional hours a week are scheduled to learn the language through the online language training OLS and face-to-face learning partnerships and the remaining 4 hours a week the volunteers will be required to work on the comprehensive solidarity activities.

The children, adolescents and young adults in this working field have mild to severe mental and/or physical disabilities. The daily tasks therefore include the support of professionals in the care and assistance of clients in everyday life as well as the responsibility for their leisure activities. Volunteers should consider leisure activities that provide a basic understanding of Europe with its different countries to the clients. In the development of the games, the participants are free (for example, puzzles, pictures, food, etc.). Using this creative approach, the basic idea of Europe doesn't only stay present in the minds of clients and volunteers but also the professionals have to deal with European values and principles and can strengthen their intercultural competence and their understanding for a united Europe.



2. ORGANIC FARMING ON BIOLAND-HOF (WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES)

Since Mariaberg was founded the agriculture here also exists. We have made a name for ourselves as a BIOLAND Organic farming and we sell our BIOLAND Angus-beef and BIOLAND pigs online at www.kaufnekuh.de and www.kaufeinschwein.de.

The working hours are generally from Monday to Friday, starting at 07:30 am and finishing at 04:00 pm (including 1 hour lunch break). The volunteers will work 30 hours a week in the BIOLAND agriculture, 4 additional hours a week are scheduled to learn the language through the online language training OLS and face-to-face learning partnerships. The remaining 4 hours a week the volunteers will be required to work on the comprehensive solidarity activities.

The farm is managed by 3 qualified farmers and 10-15 people with disabilities. The tasks of the volunteers are on the one hand classical agricultural activities such as planting the field, mowing the meadows and feeding and caring of the animals. On the other hand they support and promote people with disabilities. Due to our principle “von Mensch zu Mensch” (“from human being to human being”), the focus of our work is strongly oriented on the needs of people with disabilities.

This balancing act between the care of clients and the farm work makes this work in a varied way to a multi-layered source of inspiration, development and understanding of nature, people and the environment. The volunteers learn that each person contributes an important part to society, it reduces prejudices, promotes tolerance and open-mindedness, and creates a positive environment for the growth of the inclusive thought. Attitudes towards the consumption and waste of food are influenced in a sustainable and positive manner. In addition to the activities mentioned above, the volunteers are involved in the organization of a large farm festival, which is very popular in the region and enjoys a large number of visitors. In this context, the volunteers have the opportunity to be creative and to give the visitors an understanding of their country and the European culinary variety.



COMPREHENSIVE SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES – ADDITIONAL AND MANDATORY FOR EVERY WORKING FIELD

In addition to the daily work in the various working fields, comprehensive solidarity activities take place. These activities are given as 4 hours per week, but please note, that some weeks there will be less than 4 hours a week and some weeks there will be much more time needed. The mentioned activities are group activities. The volunteers will work together as a group, sometimes with professionals or other volunteers and sometimes with external customers or trainees.

The following activities are planned (own ideas of the volunteers are welcome):

- Big event „EUROPE-DAYS”, which the sending organizations will join and which serves the quality development and evaluation and in which the participants will play an important role in the preparation and implementation.
- Mariaberger Tag: For this big annual event the participants can prepare their own booth to get to know and introduce different European cultures under the banner of the ESC
- learning partnerships: promotes the linguistic development and networking of the young generation among each other on an informal level
- Working group for the processing of the inhuman acts in the second world war based on original documents from Mariaberg. An exhibition prepared by the participants can be published at the Mariaberg euthanasia Memorial
- Participation in networks for exchange: Erasmus + network; breakfast for volunteers in Mariaberg
- Preparation and implementation of info days at schools on ESC
- Special events (sport events, cultural evenings, language classes, singing, etc) created and organized by the volunteers

JOIN OUR PROJECT AND BECOME PART OF THE TEAM! 😊