



COMUNITAT ELS AVETS

FADEAM - Fundació d'Atenció als Discapacitats Els Avets de Moià
Utilitat Pública - Núm. Reg. Fundacions 2796 - CIF G66088006

INFO SHEET for Long Term Volunteering in ELS AVETS COMMUNITY Moià - Spain

FADEAM- Els Avets de Moià Foundation is a non-profit organization which takes care of the attention of adult persons with intellectual disabilities. It is partially financed by the Catalonia Government. The attention is based on the relationship established with persons with disabilities to achieve a home-based and inclusive dimension. Our goal is to offer people with intellectual disabilities a place to live and develop all their capabilities and support them in their participation into society. The organization is part of the International Federation of L'Arche Communities (www.larche.org) for people with intellectual disability; we are 150 communities around the world. The aim is to establish mutual relationships, where inclusion, participation and responsibility are goals for people with disabilities both in the organization and in society. Therefore, inclusion in society is essential to be open to the world that surrounds us and be part of the life of our city.

Places: **1 volunteer**
Period: **6 months to 1 year**
Starting: **May 2018 onwards** (period to be agreed).

Community general aims

- Offer personal attention based on a family lifestyle by living in small homes to promote close relationships in a nearby and friendly environment.
- Promote and value the rights of people with disabilities: right to work, to a home, to education, to a life rich in relations within a family, community and society...
- Encourage the development of personal skills and links with the local community.
- Ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities are recognised and accepted through trusty and warm relationships.
- Promote equal opportunities relating work, inclusion and social participation.
- Promote reliable relations among the persons attended, their assistants and the volunteers, both at home and at the workshop.
- Promote volunteering, in order to promote solidarity and human relations.
- Promote training and professional retraining for all our staff in order to improve the quality of the service to ensure a warm relation with the users.

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Regular activities

We offer residential services and occupational therapy in Moià.

Residential Homes

This is a hosting service for adults with intellectual disabilities, in small homes in a familiar environment, giving value to daily life, sharing house duties, feasts and celebrations. The homes are a place where to live, growing and sharing.

At present, we have two homes, Els Avets, with 9 users, and L'Olivera, with 8.

General aims:

- Create a positive environment for core members to feel at home and feel the community dimension together with their peers
- Organize housing according to a model of coexistence and participation taking into account the possibilities of each user and thus enhance their relationship and skills: work as a team, learn to share, participate in diversity of activities.
- Help core members on their personal growth through dialogue, respect, tenderness and reflection.
- Promote the personal autonomy of the users according to their possibilities or needs, especially in matters of personal hygiene, care of their own things ... Another daily activity is the care of the home.
- Ensure the integration of users in their immediate environment, participate in the activities of the city, buy the necessary things for the home, create a network of friends in the territory.
- Maintain relationships with families to keep family ties; Look for a healthy and positive relationship for the individual.
- Offer the users the possibility of developing their spiritual life by participating in different celebrations and religious activities.

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Occupational Centre (Workshop)

It is a therapeutic occupation service. We develop activities to offer a comprehensive service to the core members and to enable their integration in the pre-laboral, social and personal areas.

Currently 22 persons with intellectual disabilities are attending the Centre; 17 live in our houses and 3 live in the town or region with their families.

General aims:

- Offer daily support to people with intellectual disabilities in order to achieve inclusion
- Maintain the relation with the working environment
- Maintain and establish personal autonomy skills
- Improve social autonomy skills
- Promote human relationships and communication skills of users
- Acquire and/or maintain pre-working habits
- Acquire, maintain and/or improve handcraft skills

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Both homes and the workshop are in the centre of the village, helping the inclusion and autonomy of the handicapped persons.

Visit our blog for news about our
Community:
<http://comunitatelsavets.blogspot.com.e>



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Regional community

Moianès Region is located in central Catalonia, about 50 km North of Barcelona. It has a rich historic, natural and cultural heritage. Numerous archaeological rests which prove human activity for thousands of years, caves with Palaeolithic and Neolithic rests, dolmens, castles, Romanic chapels, pre-industrial architecture remains (water mills, ice wells, lime ovens,...) prove its solid past. The population of Moià: is around 6000 inhabitants. Main economic activities: commerce, tourism and industry. Part of the population bases its economy in agriculture and stock breeding. In Moianés there are 150 associations, so the social participation is very active. We share services with different local organisations to improve the integration and stay of volunteers. Moià is a dynamic town with old traditional dances, feast of "Sant Antoni", Carnival, winter and summer Feasts, "Gegants", "Bastoners", "Colla de Grallers".

There is public Transport to Barcelona and other cities (Manresa – Vic) by bus.





ACTIVITIES OF LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS

Introduction

Our Communities around the world are based on the voluntary service. People who have intellectual disabilities need support in their everyday lives. In L'Arche, people who choose to share their life 'assist' them in a wide variety of tasks: cooking, housekeeping, medical or personal care and hygiene, gardening, social events....

We have a wide team of professionals to aid the persons with especial needs and also volunteers. Volunteering is a very important part of our project; people with disabilities do not feel recognised and valued. The daily life and the coexistence promote the growth of strong bonds which are an emotional support for the core members. The cultural exchange and "travelling around the world" is also a benefit offered by the volunteers; the effort of the people with disabilities to teach our culture to the volunteers (food, feasts, football teams, language, daily life,...) is also important. This exchange is always very rich in new, lovely, happy, fun and interesting experiences.

Experience for the volunteer

The volunteer has the chance of having new experiences:

Cultural: new country with different landscape, climate, feast, traditions, food, daily life, language,... Catalonia offers a rich and interesting culture, where people wish to establish more bonds with Europe.

Educational: the volunteer, as part of the educational team, receives the same training directly from the responsible persons and through the meetings with a psychologist. The volunteer has a unique chance of non-formal intercultural education which will boost social integration and active participation and will improve employment opportunities and vocations and give the chance of showing solidarity with other people.

Personal: the volunteer will discover the people with intellectual disabilities through living with them. These persons have the great ability of making us discover who we are, let us know our limits,... being the co-habitation a school of life.

Language learning

Spanish and Catalan (the language spoken in our area, together with Spanish). Frequency of lessons will depend on level and needs of each volunteer.

Training and support:

- The mentor will support the volunteer and follow up the progress of the volunteer in the organization. He/she will be listened to, supported, guided and helped with any matter needed. Meetings will be as often as needed, usually every 15 days. At the beginning, the mentoring is done daily and is focused in giving information for a good integration. The volunteers receive special help to integrate in the local community.



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- Regular meetings with other groups of volunteers in order to share co-existence experiences.
- The volunteers are part of the educational team. They receive continuous training. They participate in all team meetings and in the psycho-pedagogical meeting conducted by the psychologist of the centre.



- If needed, the volunteer may get the support of the psychologist of the centre, but also from the monitors.

Our organization, as part of the Volunteers Project, has a special training program for volunteers. This will be offered during the first 2 months of their stay:

- Hygiene and precautions against contagion
- Reducing overexertion,

postural hygiene norms.

- First aid
- Containment-interventions in case of crisis
- Cooking: Food handling. preparation and hygiene
- Balanced diets
- Guidelines on care of handicapped persons: occupational therapy, daily life activities.
- Etc.

Please see annex 1 for more detail.

Free days and vacations

Every week the volunteer will get two free days.

Besides these 2 weekly free days, every month the volunteer can take a plus of two free days more. The volunteer has also the possibility to compact the days all together for a longer vacation.

Lodging:

The volunteer will lodge in the same house as disabled people. This means that he/she will get a single bedroom (it may happen that we ask the volunteer to share the room for special times; but it doesn't happen often) and a key of the house so he/she can enter or leave the house at every moment. There is also the possibility to lodge in an apartment for volunteers, but this only has capacity for 3 volunteers.



GENERAL ROLE OF ANY PERSON ACCOMPANYING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE HOMES:

1. Attention to the persons (as support to educators and professionals):

- Support to professional staff in charge of accompanying users in their daily activities (personal hygiene, services, activities,...) and in special moments (happy moments, deceases, losses and mourning times, illnesses,...)



- Help with the monitoring of the PIR (individual programme) of each person in the different areas: personal hygiene, food habits, health, social life and relations, personality,... through observation and listening to people. Offering new ideas and proposals to update the PIRs.

- Knowledge of the general project of the home and its application to daily life.
- Collaborate with the professional team with the pedagogical methods for each person (stated in the meeting with the psychologist)

2. Home dynamics (as support to educator and professionals):

- Help with the quality of the co-existence and relations in the home: entertaining, stimulation, acceptance of differences, conflict solving, and dialogue.
- Participate actively in the weekly home meeting, sharing and enabling communication and participation
- Collaborate in planning activities in and outside the home
- Promote feast and celebration periods: birthdays, folk feasts,...
- Collaborate with the organisation of the home so that everybody feels good. For ex. promoting alternatives for elders who cannot follow general activities.

3. Team work (as support to educator and professionals):

- Participate with all the home team (assistants, responsible, educators)
- Participate actively in all meetings proposed (home, with psychologist)
- Provide ideas, accept limits, ask for help, give support, use complementary skills,...
- Collaborate in welcoming new team members and try to accept changes needed for it (tasks distribution,...)

4. Material matters (as support to educator and professionals):

- Within the global educational project of the centre, collaborate with the care of the house, equipment, garden,...
- Take care of the economy of the house, helping buying the needed things according to the budget.
- Collaborate in cooking according to the security and hygiene rules and following individual diets when needed.



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- Take care of the vehicles with an adequate driving and helping with the regular cleaning. These activities are not just a routine, this is a comprehensive daily life project where all activities are related to a relational and integral model of life.

5. Community matters (as support to assistants and professionals):

- Collaborate in maintaining an attitude of respect and openness to know the characteristics of the Arche communities
- Participate in community activities such as feasts, fairs, celebrations, community meetings,...

Any contribution of volunteers is welcomed and considered.

Timetable and activities schedules may be changed when needed by the centre, the volunteer or for a better adaptation to his/her profile.

Any change is subject of dialogue and assessment.

VOLUNTEERS PROFILE

- Willing to know people with intellectual disabilities
- Willing to have a co-existence experience and community life
- Motivation to carry out a voluntary task, collaborating and giving as much as possible.
- Flexibility to adapt and work within a team.
- Open minded to be helpful when needed
- Positive and respectful attitude
- Willing to get involved in the organisation and its project
- Responsible attitude
- Basic knowledge of Spanish language and interest to learn Catalan (the language spoken in our area, together with Spanish). Knowing the basics of the language helps to communicate with people with disabilities and with the integration of the volunteer.
- It is preferable to have driving license.

BASIC CONDITIONS OFFERED TO LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS

- Accommodation (usually in a single room, either in one of the homes or in the apartment of volunteers, subject to availability) and meals.
- Basic Accidents and Liability Insurance. But not Health Insurance (you can ask in your country for the European Health Insurance Card, usually it is free).
- Weekly Spanish lessons.
- Catalan lessons once a week (if wished)
- Non-formal training program about intellectual disabilities, first aid, house holding, ...
- Monthly allowance: 150€ (as pocket money)
- An average dedication of 30 h / week. Based on a weekly schedule.
- 2 free days per week
- 2 days of vacation per month (these days can be compacted to get a longer vacations period, but not at the beginning of the stay).
- Continuous mentoring and support since arrival and throughout all the stay. Final certification about the work done and competences acquired.