

BO DE PAGODA PROJECT

TAKING CARE OF ORPHANS AT BO DE PAGODA

Solidarités Jeunes Vietnam's project



Project title: Taking care of orphans at Bo De Pagoda

Position and title of post: Volunteers as teachers, and supporters to clean for orphans in Bo De pagoda in Hanoi, Vietnam

Project owner: Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam (SJ Vietnam)

Partner: Bo De Pagoda,

Duty location: Bo De Pagoda, Long Bien District, Hanoi, Vietnam

Duration: At least 2 months

1. About SJ Vietnam

SJ Vietnam operates through a network of national non-profit organizations and partner organizations in Europe, The Middle East, Asia, Africa, South and North America, and Australia.

It organizes short and long-term international workcamps, actions of social integration, training activities, international solidarity actions and runs small Youth centers in Hanoi. SJ Vietnam is a full member of UNESCO – CCIVS and NVDA.

Through these actions, SJ Vietnam aims to promote:

- The voluntary participation of all, particularly young people and those in social disadvantaged situation, in local, national and international life.
- Local development that takes into consideration the needs of the individual, the environment and the cultural heritage into consideration.
- The breakdown of barriers between generations, cultures and nations.
- A concrete construction of peace. SJ Vietnam mobilizes young people themselves to bring the values of tolerance and respects for all human beings without any political or ideological cleavage. The management of the organization and all our activities are open to all young people without any discrimination: we select our volunteers only based on their motivations. For each activity, national or international, we try to have lowest cost possible to be accessible to everybody.

Basically, the activities of the hosting projects which are organized with volunteers are work camps (renovation, masonry, carpentry, joinery, teaching, children activities, environment protection, painting, art performance, etc) and local development (short and long-term projects).

2. About Bo De pagoda

Bo De pagoda is a place for worshipping Buddhism. There have female monks who often do kind jobs for other people. According to Buddhist belief, pagodas always welcome all kinds of people with different situations and help them to find out solutions for their problems if they have. So that is the reasons why there are many children who are orphans are left there. The children there do not know about their parents, they often were left there from infancy. Their parents, because of different reasons, cannot bring them up, and they also cannot ask other persons for help, so the best way is leaving their sons or daughters at the gate of the pagoda because they know that their children will be picked up and brought up, which is what they could not give them. Now there are about 150 children living there: around 80 infancies, 16 high school students, and 14 secondary pupils, the rest are under 6 years old and at colleges or universities. The number is not constant because the pagoda often has new members. There also have some women who take care of children. Monk Thich Dam Lan, director of the pagoda, noted that all children are brought up and being given education. They go to public schools with children who have their own families. Bo De pagoda receives donation from organizations and people but it is difficult to support for a lot of persons. The monks there also often call for second-hand clothes (for summer as well as for winter), toys or old textbooks, newspaper for children. Children there need a lot of help from others.

3. Description of work

Volunteers will make teaching plan and prepare materials for the children. They will teach them in the mornings and support cleaning in the afternoons. Before starting class every day, the volunteers will review old lessons to help the children remember what they learnt, and then they will start new ones. The volunteers are supposed to teach in the mornings and support cleaning in the afternoons. They will explain to the children how important clean environment is.

Picking up grass is also a task of the volunteers. They also help to take care of babies, because the women there are so busy and they really need help from volunteers. The volunteers will feed the children, and lull them to sleep.

The role of the volunteer is to provide education and engagement of the children living in the pagoda. In 2009, this has predominantly been through operating the "kindergarten". The word "kindergarten" is used very loosely as the children who attend are aged 9 months to 3 years and hence it is more of a child care facility than a kindergarten.

The volunteer will:

- Play with the children,
- Coordinate morning tea,
- Prepare craft and music activities and provide physical care of the children as necessary (changing and washing).
- coordinate daily teeth cleaning and "Fruit Friday", healthy diet operation
- clean the Kindergarten every day after activities
- Model correct behavior for the children and nannies regarding non physical discipline, healthy eating, mouth and hand hygiene and fair play.

There are children who attend the kindergarten who have disabilities (Down's syndrome, deaf, mute, limb deformities). These children require particular attention from the volunteers to engage them in activities and provide them with adequate stimulation.

Because of the age group of the children at the pagoda currently, this role may change over time. For instance, as these children grow older, they will be able to study lesson plans for English. The role of the volunteer is challenging because of the diverse needs of the children depending on age and development.

4. Project Objectives

Children there really want to learn English but it is not easy for them to find out their own tutors because they cannot pay, and the director of the pagoda has to count carefully to spend their money for necessary things so it is even hard when paying for their public schools. They need help from other people who are willing to give them their hands. And with a lot of infancies every day a large amount of rubbish is released without being picked up on the right place. The women who are working there as baby sitters are so busy with small children so they cannot do everything. Children are not told to put waste on bins, or because of habits they do not do what they should do. The orphans there need to be taken care of by the whole society. Volunteers should talk with them and help them to erase the scare of their situation. The caring for kids at the kindergarten is really important so volunteers need to care much to this.

5. Duties and responsibilities

- Teach English for children from primary, secondary to high school.
- Take care of kids at the kindergarten
- Collect rubbish and put it in right place as well as explain to the children about the importance of keeping environment clean.
- Clean up the pagoda because there is much of dust and garbage.
- Pick grass up and sweep the pagoda.
- Play with the children to help them more relax after studying hard at school.
- Help the women to take care of children.
- Explain children there the importance of keeping environment tidy.

- Volunteers should wear long trousers and shirts which cover their shoulders. They should not smoke or drink when they are at the pagoda.

6. Work arrangements

- Working place is at Bo De pagoda, which is about 5 kms far away from long-term volunteers' accommodation.
- It is envisioned that the volunteer will devote at least 5-6 hours/day, 5 days/week.
- Half day the volunteers will teach for the children and the rest half day they will clean up the pagoda, and take care of babies.
- The volunteers will stay with Vietnamese families. The details of the accommodation will be informed before the volunteers' arrival in Vietnam.

7. Qualification and experience

- Fluent in English (Vietnamese is an asset)
- Previous English coaching/teaching experience is an asset
- Be able to do manual work.
- Willing to work and stay in Hanoi
- Strong inter-personal skills, and experience in working with a wide variety of people, cultural sensitivity.
- Commitment to volunteerism, considerable experience as a volunteer
- Ready to live as local people (basic accommodations, transport by bus or bicycle, local food).
- Be sympathetic with orphans.
- Be patient.

- High motivation and ready to be in face of many difficulties such as language and culture difference, low budget, etc.

8. Participation fee

250 EUR/month to stay in host families. This fee includes food, transportation and basic accommodation. Volunteers will pay all their participation fees one time for their sending organizations or directly to banks and fees will be transferred for SJ Vietnam before volunteers come to Vietnam. Volunteers have to bring the receipts for SJ Vietnam. If they do not pay their participation fees before coming, they will be in the waiting list. They can stay longer or less than couples of months but they are supposed to pay for the whole months and may be a half as well. For example, if volunteers stay for 3 months and 10 days in the LTV house, they are supposed to pay for 3 months and a half (it means they will pay 875 EUR); if they stay for 3 months and 20 days, they are supposed to pay for 4 months (it means they will pay 1000 EUR). If volunteers have holiday in the middle of their voluntary durations, the holiday duration will still be considered as their voluntary time so volunteers are supposed to pay for the holiday duration. If they have holiday after finishing all voluntary work with SJ Vietnam, they do not have to pay for that.

Following is the address to transfer fee:

Account name: SJ Vietnam

Account number: 4054928

Address: ANZ Hanoi Branch

No 14, Le Thai To Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

Swift: ANZBVNVX

Telephone: +84 438258190

Fax: +84 438258188/9

9. Application procedures

Interested candidates should email detailed Resume (CV) and an application letter to their voluntary sending organizations.

The national voluntary organizations have to send their candidates' CVs to: in@sjvietnam.org. Our incoming coordinator is responsible for accepting volunteers.