right 2 smile

GHANA

Volunteer Placement Information Document

Right 2 Smile Foundation (VO/0583)

One World. One Smile.

GHANA –
COMMUNITY WELLBEING OUTREACH PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

Right 2 Smile is an NGO run by people, volunteers and professionals, who have felt the magic perceived on the projects and consequently been heartened to sustain their contribution whilst receiving so much energy back.

Right 2 Smile provides us with a platform to be creative, to belong, within a family of motivated and inspired individuals and to see our work manifest in the people we have come to love across the world. Our ultimate aim is to provide the resources necessary to our partners in order to empower them with the tools required to reach their goals. Our programmes are based on:

✔ Responsible Volunteering

This involves everyone thinking about their actions and taking responsibility for them. We pride ourselves on being ambassadors of responsible and meaningful volunteering through the creation of sustainable, grassroots programmes that genuinely address the communities' needs and have their best interest at heart. For volunteers, this entails having an open mind, preparing oneself well beforehand and respecting people, cultures and the local environment.

✔ Travel Education

We offer a cultural programme, not just manual work, but a complete experience. Our programmes attract the learning traveller. We believe that education, along with engaging interactions, are the main practices you will carry with you all your life. You will live within the host community and gain a deep understanding of their culture and way of life, which you will also inevitably grow to respect. We will also give them insight into your culture, and ultimately, this two-way cultural exchange is what puts down barriers and promotes international understanding.

✔ Lifelong Learning

We encourage you to reach your full potential. By volunteering with Right 2 Smile, you will be invigorated by the real-life situations you encounter, which will give you the confidence to push your boundaries and kick-start new ideas. We aim to instil a sense of responsibility, a feeling of empathy and a desire in the activist in everyone that joins us on an experience that counts, to learn and do more!

Why volunteer with us?

When you embark on this journey with Right 2 Smile, you will discover your inner strengths and be able to amplify a variety of your skills; time management, decision-making, conflict resolution, but also, adaptability and leadership. The invaluable hands-on practice will empower you to become a dynamic leader in your personal, academic and professional life.

This way, you create more than memories and friendships through your overseas volunteer activities; you gain an international cultural experience that has a genuine benefit for you and the community, for years to come.

VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

NAME	**Volunteer Community** **Skill-Based Placement**
PLACEMENT TYPE	Group or Individual (both are possible)
TERM	19 days *starting on a Monday and ending on a Friday*
PERIOD	All year
SKILLS	Medical professionals, including mental health
SELECTION	First come, first served basis
DESCRIPTION	Short-term group volunteering. This placement is targeted towards skilled individuals. Volunteers will need to have experience working in the medical field.
COSTS	€25.00 - Training Fee €400.00 - Placement Fee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ghana is an ethnically diverse country with over 100 ethnic groups living in the country. Ghanaians come from six main ethnic groups: the Akan (Ashanti and Fanti), the Ewe, the Ga-Adangbe, the Mole-Dagbani, the Guan, and the Gurma. The culture of Ghana differs from one ethnic group to another. With over 32 million inhabitants, Ghana is the second-most populous country in West Africa, after Nigeria.

Ghanaians are very cheerful people and love to celebrate all the major festivals and events round the year. Seasonal celebrations like Christmas are celebrated on a grand scale and bring a whole tribe or a clan together. Naming ceremonies, puberty initiations, marriage and death are all marked by family ceremonies. Everyone participates in the major ceremonies, the most frequent of which are funeral celebrations typically lasting several days.

Location

Ghana, which is physically located in West Africa, occupies a total area of 238,535 square kilometres. The country shares borders with the Ivory Coast on the West, Burkina Faso in the north, and Togo on the east. It lies right on the Atlantic Ocean. Our project is based in the region of Volta (Kpando Municipal, Afadjato South district and Hohoe municipal).

Language

English is the official language, while there are another 11 languages that have the status of government-sponsored languages, such as Akan and Guan. The language spoken in the Volta region is Ewe, which also has different dialects throughout the whole region. French is taught in schools and used for commercial and international economic exchanges.

Climate

Ghana's climate is tropical and strongly influenced by the West Africa monsoon winds. It is warm to hot all year round. The rainy season runs from May to September in the north, from April to October in the centre and from April to November in the south. The driest areas are the north and the eastern coast, which includes the capital, Accra. Temperatures are constantly high throughout the country and range from a low of 21C in the coolest month of August to a high of 38C or more in March.

THE PROJECT

Quick Facts

Local Partner Organization: **iHelp Africa**

Project: **Health Project**

Location: **Kpando Municipal District, Volta region**

Collaboration Start: **2020**

Project Type: **Community Based**

Project Objectives

- **Community Hospitals & Outreach**
- **Health Screenings and Blood drives in the community**
- **Assisting in educational campaigns related to Menstrual & reproductive health, mental health, substance abuse awareness.**

The Hospital in Kpando

Margret Marquart Catholic Hospital is a health service providing organisation, solely owned by the Catholic Church, located in Kpando in the Volta Region of Ghana and operates according to the doctrines of the Catholic Church. Services provided:

- Clinical services: These services are typically delivered by healthcare professionals such as physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals.
- Diagnostic services involve the use of medical tests, procedures, and imaging techniques to identify and diagnose medical conditions or diseases.
- Surgical services: These services may include elective or emergency surgeries, ranging from minor procedures performed in outpatient settings to complex surgeries requiring hospitalization.
- Auxiliary services, also known as support services or ancillary services, are non-medical services provided by a hospital to support patient care, operations, and overall functioning. These services play a critical role in ensuring the smooth operation of a healthcare facility and enhancing the patient experience.

Outreach

- Sexual reproductive educational sessions with schools within the Kpando area
- Blood donation exercise within selected communities.
- Breast cancer awareness and screening within selected communities
- Outreach through mental health awareness sessions for students and prison inmates

Highlights

- Experience a completely different culture and way of life;
- Work in the hospitals together with local doctors and nurses;
- Be involved in community outreach;
- Contribute to the development of the project objectives;
- Explore & learn about Ghana's Culture
- Enjoy the village life in Ghana.

Your Role

Our placements offer the opportunity to volunteers to work in the villages with the local staff .

Skills and Experience Required

	Volunteer Community **Skill-Based Placement**
SKILLS	✔ Medical Health Professionals ✔ Mental Health Professionals
EXPERIENCE	Experience working in a hospital environment is a must
DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	✔ License/Warrant/Certificates ✔ Reference Letter from current employer ✔ CV, including photo of volunteer

We consider this Project ideal if you:

- Have experience working in a hospital/clinic environment;
- Would like to participate in providing healthcare to the community;
- Would like to be involved in community outreach projects and education on various health issues;
- Wish to experience a very basic but truly magical way of life;
- Wish to learn about local customs and culture;
- Wish to learn about the local needs of the community.

Accommodation

Accommodation is included. Volunteers stay in a local Ghana style house. Be prepared for rustic living, the accommodation is very basic, a truly village experience. In addition, several family-run laundry services are available and conveniently located close to the house.

Food

Local food is also included and is served at the accommodation. One of the staff will be preparing the food for you.
The staple food for Ghanaians is jollof rice and the most favourite with the youths is fufu.

Local Support

iHelp Africa staff and a locally-appointed volunteer coordinator will be your immediate day-to-day support whilst you are on the project. They can help you with anything you are worried about or perhaps need help with.

Free Time

Most evenings (when you are not busy) the volunteers are free to explore their surroundings. Most volunteers tend to head to town and visit the local market. We encourage you to stay on the project for the whole placement, even during weekends. Getting to know a community will give you a refreshing insight into Ghana and the people we work with.

Health

In the unfortunate circumstance that you become ill, the local staff will assist in organising any transfers to nearby hospitals if you may need.

Getting to the Project

On arriving in Accra, staff from our partner organisation will be waiting for you at the airport or in Accra, depending whether you will be arriving all on the same day. You can get to Kpando by public transport (at your own expense) and it takes approximately 5 hours. If you are travelling as a group, you may opt to get a private car and divide the expense between you. Public transport is quite the experience - with stops for street food, toilet break and also fuel break. Make sure that you do not leave Accra later than noon in order to arrive at the host family during 'day time'.

Getting Around

Around the house, you can walk to the nearby market, or any shops to buy resources. One of the host families has a small shop with a choice of necessities.
Otherwise, it is very easy to travel around town with Tuk tuks.

What to Take

Once you have registered with Right 2 Smile, you will receive an Information Pack via email that will include further details on the project in Ghana. This email contains the list of items to take with you for the project.

A thick novel or a travel guide to read, a pack of cards, a couple of simple games usually go down well when you are spending time with the children or amongst yourselves when you're at the house.

How to Apply

It is very simple to apply for a placement. First, decide on which dates you want to carry out your placement and fill in the Registration Form. One of us will get back to you with all the details and how to complete your registration. We will hold various meetings in preparation for your placement and are always available to answer any questions you might have prior to your travel. We will also guide you through the booking process and assist you in all your needs.

What's Included

- ✔ Training: Pre Placement Training Programme will prepare you for your responsibilities. Whilst on placement the volunteer coordinator will guide you and you will participate in any community activities.
- ✔ Food (Breakfast & Dinner) You can buy lunch from nearby the hospital
- ✔ Accommodation
- ✔ Volunteer Coordinator
- ✔ Activities on the project
- ✔ Transfer from / to Accra Airport to the project (at your own expense)

What's Not Included

- X Flights
- X Travel insurance
- X Visa. This needs to be obtained from the Ghana Commission in Ta Xbiex. Price is €70 and it takes a minimum of a week to process.
- X Country transport
- X Any extra equipment you think you may need
- X Extra food and snacks on your days off!

Welcome to our SMILE Revolution!
We look forward to hearing from you
The Right 2 Smile Team