

Rakvere Social Support Organization

ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

Rakvere Social Support Centre is a governmental organisation which works in a local level. It was established 2001 to provide social service for elder and disabled people. Since November of 2005 they found Children's Day Centre, to support families in solving their problems. The Children's Day Centre is the place for the kids who do not get enough support from home. The children can study, communicate and play with the other children in the centre. There are around 15 children daily in the centre. Every week there is a different theme the activities are related with, e.g. Olympic – the children are introduced the history of Olympic games, and they read and draw about it or play different games these topics. The Children's Day Centre also provides prevention work to avoid violence and alcohol or narcotic problems among the children in Rakvere. The centre cooperates with teachers, psychologist and police to direct children in to the centre instead of playing in the streets.

Project context

Rakvere Social Support Centre is governmental organisation which works in local level. It was established 2001 to provide social service for elder and disabled people. Since November of 2005 they found Children's Day Centre, to support families in solving their problems. The Children's Day Centre, where the volunteer is expected to work, is the place for the kids who do not get enough support from home. The children can study, communicate and play with the other children in the centre. There are around 15 children daily in the Centre. Every week there is a different theme the activities are related with, e.g. Olympic – the children are introduced the history of Olympic games, they read and draw about it or play different games about it.

The Children's Day Centre also provides prevention work to avoid violence and alcohol or narcotic problems among the children in Rakvere. The Centre cooperate with teachers, psychologist and police to direct children in to the Centre instead of playing in the streets. They have three social workers working directly with children in the Centre. They assisting children, in age 7 – 17, with their homework and organising different activities to the kids. Also they have consultations for the parents, to support or give them information and advice in issues of raising children. They also have hairdresser, cosmetic and masseuse working in the Centre for the families with economical and social problems. The head of the Centre writes also educational projects to children, where kids can take part by themselves. For example last year they made Communication Training DVD, including different role plays. There are a classroom computer room, a playroom, a kitchen and a shower in the Children's Day Centre. The Centre is open Monday to Friday 12.00 – 18.00 for the children. The staff is coming at 10.00 o'clock to work with the parents. As the smoking among the youngsters under 18 is a big problem, the staff of the Children's Day Centre ask volunteer not to smoke with or front of the children. Also smoking in the Centre is forbidden. Rakvere is situated in north Estonia on the northern foot of the Pandivere upland, 20 km south of the Gulf of Finland. There are around 15 000 inhabitants in Rakvere. The city is the administrative, economic and cultural centre of Lääne-Viru county. There are a theatre, many shops, cafes, pubs, kindergartens, schools etc in Rakvere. Volunteer will have many

possibilities to spend leisure time in the city. There is also good bus and train connection with other cities.



Proposed Activities

Hosting international volunteer will bring new experience and fresh atmosphere to the Centre. The volunteer will broaden children's horizon and motivate them to think about their future. He/she also will raise intercultural awareness among the children and the staff and will give new reason for the children to visit the Centre. The Centre will give to the volunteer a place and children to realise his/her ideas. The children are very open and ready to try new and interesting activities. The volunteer will have good support to find best activities for him/herself. It is a great opportunity for the volunteer to get to know Estonian country and culture. It is also a chance for the young volunteer to develop his/her skills and personality through activities and helping children.

Regular activities in the Children's Day Centre are making homework after school, reading, playing, drawing, doing sport, watching movies etc. Twice a week there is a cooking and handicraft workshops. There are also representative of different professions visiting Centre to introduce their job to the children. End of the each day the staff with the children are cleaning the rooms they used, to teach responsibility to the children. Kids are going once per week to the local art school, accompanied by one social worker.

The main activities for volunteer in Rakvere Social Support Centre/Children's Day Centre are seen as follows:

- organising children's leisure time activities (sports, games, songs etc) (25%);
- looking after children and helping social workers in managing their daily needs (15%);
- presenting his/her own country and culture as a part of the intercultural learning (15%);
- teaching foreign language to the children (15%);
- assisting to arrange outings and excursions and taking part in those (10%);
- playing with children (10%);



It is very important for children to have someone who listens and understands them and also gives them his/her support. This is another task for the volunteer. The staff of the centre hopes that the new person can get into the children's heart and help them to understand difficulties of life.

Profile of Volunteer and Recruitment Process

The most important is that volunteer wants to work with children. Previous experience is not necessary but could help. Volunteer is expected to be flexible, tolerant, open-minded, friendly and helpful. He/she has to be active and take initiatives and responsible person. Non smoking is appreciated.

All the volunteers who contact with coordinating organisation International Youth Association

EstYES will be informed about the vacant of the project for certain deadline. Volunteer will get special application form to fill in, which is the basis for the pre-selection. Then host Project receives applications approved by EstYES to make their final decision. Staff of the host project chooses the volunteer, whose profile and interests match the best the proposed activities of the project.



Risk Prevention, Protection and Safety

The Rakvere Social Support Centre will ensure:

- 1) that the volunteer work is safe and been assessed for risk
- 2) that every effort is made that project meets high health and safety standards
- 3) that the volunteer is trained and familiar with the volunteering work and have access to adequate safety equipment if needed
- 4) that the volunteer will get all the practical and psychological support from the staff

As participants of EVS program, volunteers will be covered by AXA insurance plan for EVS volunteers, which covers possible medical expenses and help to solve possible healthrelated issues during the EVS period.