**Tallinn Centre for Children at Risk (Männi shelter)**

**Introduction**

Tallinn Center for Children at Risk is welfare organization, where children who have been left without parental care or have behavioral or substance abuse problems, get professional help. This organisation has two centers in Tallinn: Lilleküla Shelter and Männi Shelter.

Children are hosted in these two shelters for various reasons, most common are vagrancy, home negligence, family violence, parental alcoholism or drug abuse, parental unemployment or loss of residence due to family poverty. Most of the children are brought to the shelter by the police or child protection worker.

The staff that works directly with the children consists of the manager of shelter, nine social workers and a nurse who all aim to provide the children a safe environment which helps to foster their personal development. Approximately 75% of shelter children are sent back home after their stay in the Shelter. If necessary, they remain under the supervision of the welfare worker.

**Location**

Männi shelter is in Nõmme subdistrict in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Bus connection is very good - it takes approx. 20 minutes to get to the city centre. This area is surrounded of big park and forest, which is a beautiful sight every time of year.

**Work tasks**

After on-arrival orientation meeting aimed at the integration of the volunteer to local realities and explanation of aims and activities of the host project, the ESC volunteer will be carrying out the following tasks:

* Looking after the children and youth and helping staff in teaching them different useful skills
* Running additional educational activities in the house using its own facilities
* Teaching children foreign languages through joined games, songs, sport, any other activities indoor and outdoor, which the ESC volunteer will be running
* Presenting his/ her home country and its culture as a part of intercultural learning
* Arranging children’s outings, e.g. culture visits, excursions, hikes, picnics, etc.
* Playing with children

Participation of motivated ESC volunteer is seen as an exciting innovative element refreshing the daily routine and bringing additional educational value to the pedagogical process. The main idea is to provide assistance and support local personnel in daily work, particularly in
running various educational and free time activities for the children and youth. It is also to provide some experience and practice of foreign languages and intercultural learning both for children and local personnel. At the same time it gives valuable field experience of the social and youth work to the ESC volunteer accepted to the project.

**Requirements for the volunteer**

We will be pleased to get applications from anyone who are:

* Ready to work with children and youngsters and have enough patience;
* Ready to understand and accept that the children/youngsters often come from difficult family and social background;
* Friendly and open-minded;
* Aged between 18 and 30 years;
* Optimistic;
* Responsible

Working experience is not required. Most importantly the volunteer should be fond of children and have optimistic and stalwart nature. All sorts of artistic, pedagogical, musical or sports related skills are welcome as they can be implemented in educational and free time activities.