**„European spirit through European Volunteers in different Caritas Organisations in Upper Austria“**

In different Caritas Organisations in Upper Austria we want to have the support and ideas from European Volunteers. Caritas has already long term experience, some of the Caritas Organisations are new ones.

Please find below the description of the different hosting projects and when applying please mention the title of the project!

**Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen - St. Isidor**

[**https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/948000886\_en**](https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/948000886_en)

**Start: February and September**

**6 Volunteers**

**Place: Leonding**

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independant as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

Sankt Isidor looks like a small village with one kindergarten, two afterschool care centres and five houses where children live (assisted living). In addition, there are two schools, a small church, an outdoor pool and many playgrounds for the children. In walking distance, one can find grocery shops and the next tram stop. Sankt Isidor lies close to the provincial capital of Upper Austria, Linz (just 10 minutes by tram). Linz is located next to the Danube and offers many cultural events. From Linz, one can reach the UNESCO world heritage area of Salzkammergut in under an hour by train.

We offer two different kinds of projects for volunteers in St. Isidor: supporting either the afterschool care centre or with assisted living. Depending on a volunteer’s experience and preferences, we will be able to address the right kind of tasks. The main tasks are to support the staff in their daily work and to support the children in their leisure-time activities such as playing, sports, swimming, excursions, cooking. Further tasks include cleaning together with the children as a part of pedagogical tasks, as well as keeping rules in the team and setting boundaries for the children. Each volunteer will work in a group of five to eight children with and without disabilities. In the group, the volunteers will receive a warm lunch. Volunteers are working on their project from Monday until Thursday. Every volunteer has five weeks of holidays and is free on the public holidays aswell. In the Kindergarten and afterschool care centre, there are fixed holidays in the week before easter and during christmas time, in the assisted living one can take their holidays individually. The accomodation for volunteers is located in the village of Sankt Isidor, so the distance between accomodation and project is within 100 meters. Volunteers have their own room in either a single flat or shared apartment with a shared kitchen, a TV, free wifi and laundry service.

We encourage the volunteers to bring their own culture, abilities, ideas and creativity into the group by cooking, singing songs, creating leisure-time activities and so on. Thus, the children in the groups can experience a new culture, new traditions and widen their horizon through cultural exchanges. In return, the volunteers will get an insight into the Austrian culture and into working with children with disabilities. Thus intercultural learning and communication shall be the aim for both the volunteer and the host organisation. In addition, the volunteers receive full support from our staff and their mentor.

**Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen – St. Elisabeth**

[**https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911896031\_en**](https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911896031_en)

**Start: September and February**

**3 Volunteers**

**Place: Linz**

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independant as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

St. Elisabeth is located in Linz, the provincial capital of Upper Austria, on the hill “Froschberg” close to the city centre and the city parks aswell. Linz is located next to the Danube and offers many cultural events. From Linz, one can reach the UNESCO world heritage area of Salzkammergut in under an hour by train.

The project for volunteers in St. Elisabeth is called “Werkstätten” (sheltered workshops) or assisted living. The project is responsible for the educational qualification for young people with disabilities at the age of 15 to 30 years. One workshop is specialised on blind and visually impaired people, the second workshop offers several qualifications (such as learning to use a computer, sewing, working in a grocery shop, cooking, metalwork and many more). The practical education is accompanied by regular learning sessions, training job skills, individual coachings and internships in companies. We try to focus on the individual strengths, interests, needs and wishes of the young people. The aim of the project is to integrate young people with disabilities into free labour market.

The volunteer will assist staff members in the project by helping to train and educate a group of four to eight young people with disabilities. The volunteer will support our staff in daily routines, e.g. assisting leading training-sessions, learning with the youths, training job competences, social competences and so on. The volunteers learn about working in a multi-professional team, pursuing the individual goals (of the young people) together with the staff and about assisting people with disabilities on high pedagogic standards. We encourage the volunteers to bring their own culture, abilities, ideas and creativity into the group by cooking, singing songs, creating leisure-time activities and so on. Thus, the young people in the workshops can experience a new culture, new traditions and widen their horizon through cultural exchanges. In return, the volunteers will get an insight into the Austrian culture and into working with young people with disabilities. Thus, intercultural learning and communication shall be the aim for both the volunteer and the host organisation. In addition, the volunteers receive full support from our staff and their mentor.

We provide a small appartement (single bedrooms) for the volunteers in the building, where they will work. The accomodation is equipped with a small kitchen, shower/WC, TV, free wifi and a washing machine.

**Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen – St. Pius**

**Start: January**

**1 Volunteers**

**Place: Steegen/Peuerbach**

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends to people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independant as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

The location of St. Pius specialises on people with disabilities. The project of a volunteer will be to support the clients of the living groups and in the workshops.

The volunteer can show a lot of his/her idea what solidartiy means for him/her. Part of each volunteering project is also to take part in german lessons and to work on an own project, whatever it is, we will try to realize it. All volunteers are welcome to bring in their culture, language teaching, intercultural ideas, outdoor ideas, abilities, ideas, creativity to present their way of living/culture/background into cooking, singing songs, creating free time activities with adults with disabilities and so on. Therefore, it is up to the volunteer to define the project in the end. Working methods are non formal learning, workshops, own ideas of volunteers, cultural exchanges It will be an enrichment for the volunteers side gaining a lot of experience, new impressions of a different culture and a good insight into the work with children/youngsters with special needs and persons with special needs in general.

Depending on a volunteer’s experience and preferences, we will be able to address the right kind of tasks. The main tasks are to support the staff in their daily work and to support the people in their leisure-time activities such as playing, sports, swimming, excursions, cooking. Further tasks include cleaning together as a part of pedagogical tasks, as well as keeping rules in the team and setting boundaries. Each volunteer will work in a group of five to eight clients with disabilities. In the group, the volunteers will receive a warm lunch. Volunteers are working on their project from Monday until Thursday. Every volunteer has five weeks of holidays and is free on the public holidays aswell.

The accomodation for volunteers is located in the village of Sankt Pius, so the distance between accomodation and project is within 100 meters. Volunteers have their own room in either a single flat or shared apartment with a shared kitchen, a TV, free wifi and laundry service.