



PLACEMENT DETAILS

Name of centre	The Vietnam Friendship Village
Country /Location	Vietnam/Hanoi

General Project information	
Name and Address of Local Contact	<p>Ms. Que (Volunteer Program)</p> <p>Email: quenguyen@csds.vn</p> <p>Mobile: +84 912585525 (24 hours)</p>
Project information (summary of project, staffs, and location)	<p>Friendship Village is a living, health, and educational center for children living with the affects of dioxins from the herbicide “Agent Orange”. The Village provides as well health-care and therapies for war-veterans staying for a period of 1 to 2 months. At the same time, the Friendship Village is also a symbol of international solidarity, reconciliation, and the continued efforts to heal the pains of war caused by Agent Orange.</p> <p>Founded in 1992 by George Mizo, an American veteran who was interested in helping to repair the damage done to the Vietnamese people and to Vietnam-US relations by the war, the Friendship Village’s main mission is to provide residents with a variety of alternative health treatments, food grown in an on-site garden, and education in trades and crafts.</p> <p>The Friendship Village complex is composed of two living quarters, two classroom buildings, a health centre, and a few other buildings used by the staff for cooking and general administration. It also has an assortment of vegetable gardens that help to meet its need for vegetables.</p> <p>Friendship Village welcomes around 120 residents, aged from 4 to 26 and coming from different provinces of Vietnam. The residents’ disabilities include autism, cerebral-palsy, Down-syndrome, physical deformity, and severe mental disability.</p> <p>The staffs include nurses, medical technicians, and therapists, as well as teachers and caregivers.</p>
Volunteers and Interns’ main responsibilities	<p>The Friendship is willing to work with volunteers with background and/or solid experience in special education, childcare, teaching, physical therapy and medical fields. The volunteers can support the Village in several tasks such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing with the teachers about teaching methods. • Help the teachers to structure their class, share with them



	<p>about the evolution of each student, and update the students' profiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and develop the physical and speech therapy programs. • Train the staff about new medical therapies/treatments and/or special education methods. • Supporting and accompanying the children during the class (help them to focus, do the exercises with them, encourage them, etc). • Cleaning the classrooms/houses and support the staff with the house-works in general. • Helping the teachers to prepare teaching material. • Organizing games and activities suitable for the children, based on their scholar abilities, personal and social development. • Teaching English for the staff/teachers and the residents.
Travel from accommodation to workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1h (walk + one bus)
Working hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working hours: From 8:00 am to 10:30 am and then from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The presence of the volunteers in the evenings and during the week-ends is highly appreciated by both residents and administration. Time-table is though flexible.
Requirements for the interns and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have background or solid experience in working with children or disabled people, in teaching or in any medical field. • Open minded and flexible • Patient • Proactive and creative • 20 and plus • Minimum stay of 4 weeks.

2. Location information	
Departure and End Point	Hanoi International Airport
Stay at	CSDS No. 72 Pham Than Duat, Mai Dich, Cau Giay, Hanoi
Food	Provided 3 meals a day with Vietnamese food; lunch can be at the project site



Distance and location of the nearest phone/Internet Café:	Available at the Volunteer House
Distance from accommodation to work	About 8km
Nearest medical services for minor ailments (distance and time):	Viet Phap International Hospital Trung Hoa Area, Hanoi About 10 minute driving.
Nearest medical services for major problems (distance and time):	Viet Phap International Hospital Trung Hoa Area, Hanoi About 10 minute driving.
Electricity:	Yes /220 V/
Running water	Yes
Additional information that might be helpful to interns and volunteers	<p><u>General challenges for volunteers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heat and humidity. - Pollution. - Difficulties in communicating with local people - Being a visible minority. - Working practice & conditions differences. - Food – a lot of rice! - Traveling alone, homesickness. - Vegetarians should not expect many choices beside vegetable, eggs or tofu.