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| organization | **CARITAS ARCHIDIECEZJI GDAŃSKIEJ (Caritas Archdiocese of Gdańsk)** |
| About us | Caritas Archdiocese Gdansk (CAG) is a church charity organization established on 25 April 1990. The organisation brings help to every single person in need regardless worldview, religion, gender, age or health status. charitable and humanitarian activities of the organization are dedicated to the spiritual and material needs of people. Main groups of people who are supported by CAG: - youth and children (from communities at risk of social exclusion), - elderly people, - people with disabilities (including mental disabilities), - poor and homeless people, - center for chronically ill people where they get daily care, proffesional medical support and rehabilitation assistance, - Center of single mothers, who have difficult situation, they do not have financial resources or human support from their familiesWork and various activities of CAG is supported by employees, volunteers, church members, school leaders.Caritas Archdiocese Gdansk (CAG) is very experienced organization in national and international projects connected with volunteering, from 2005 Caritas Archdiocese Gdansk has hosted more than 170 volunteer from various countries: Germany, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Ukraine, Georgia, Spain, Belarus, France, Armenia, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Macedonia, Russia, Hungary, Lithuania and etc. |
| Project title | **SOLIDARITY MATTERS** |
| Character, working hours | The volunteer works in one of the selected Caritas Centers in Gdańsk, Sopot, Gdynia, which work for the benefit of youth, children with difficult background, seniors or disabled people.Volunteer with project coordinator will be able to choose her/his working place according to his/her preferences, before the final decision volunteer will be able to visit several centers, observe working process take part in it and after decide where she/he would like to work. Weekly Schedule:**Monday- Thursday** – work in chosen work placeteam work (meetings of volunteers, implementation of mini-projects, visiting various Caritas centers, organize a various workshops, activities for Caritas local volunteers, participation in joint events) **Tuesday - Friday** – team work (meetings of volunteers, implementation of mini-projects, visiting various Caritas centers, organize a various workshops, activities for Caritas local volunteers, participation in joint events) **Weekend** - free time (it is possible that some weekends volunteers will be involved in Caritas activities, in this case volunteer will get day off)Working hours - each Caritas facility has different schedule, working hours of volunteer will be depend on timetable of the center.  |
| Centers description | **Children & Youth Centers (Gdańsk, Sopot)**Youth in age 5 -18 year old* from difficult backgrounds, were families having problems with alcohol, drugs addiction, poverty, prison, unemployment, violence, illiteracy, often incapacity of life,
* being in families were are many children in a small flats where is no conditions to learn, sleep, have fun etc.
* having problems in learning,
* in general not speaking in English,
* having emotional problems, problems with communication,
* often hyperactive, sometimes aggressive.

Above description might seem to be scary but they are good children who need attention, positive attention not the one which they often have at school. There, they are perceived as people without any chances to live in a “good way”. However our experience show that those children and youth are very active, they know what is team. They are willing to act, play together etc. We see the results of the therapy, of our work if only those children get the chance, if you believe in them they are able to act and create something good. They just need attention of other person, good warm words. **Club of Seniors**Elderly in age from 65 year oldthis is a day center for elderly people, a space where they are able to spend pleasant time together, play games, do handmade things, get new informations, do physical exercises in order to keep them active.**Centers for People with disabilities** Therapy centers for people with disabilities where they get educational, social and psychological support. Art is a main form of therapy and rehabilitation for the disabled, therapy, spiritual, intellectual and physical development is the main goal of the employees of the center. |
| The role of an ESC volunteer | **We would like the volunteer to join the workshop team, show his/her presence, make impact on the place, that the workplace feels that has got an ESC volunteer!** ☺Proposed activities in the workplace:* Foreign languages lessons for people once/twice a week,
* National days of my country:
* preparation of big poster with basic words in my language,
* my national dishes, cooking activities,
* what do you know about my country? – presentation about history, traditions + quiz.

During summer/winter holidays join the camps with children/youth as a guardian and activities arranger. 1. Using such equipment like: camera, microphone, voice recorder make an interview with local community about:
* Who is volunteer? Is he/she needed?
* Other themes to choose.
1. The volunteer is encourage to make a movie or photo exhibition about ESC, about her/his ESC experience in Poland.

Besides: * Help with homework of children/youth such as English language, math, geographic etc.,
* Follow the activities which are organized by the youth leader,work coordinator, therapist.
* Propose own activities which can be organized with the youth leader such as cooking, art, sports activities etc.,
* Play games with children, youth, elderly people
* Help in daily duties such as cleaning, washing etc.
* Participation in any other additional activities proposed by the EKS coordinator, for example visit in the school with a presentation.

**We are also open for volunteers’ ideas. If you would like to propose your own activity – go ahead!**  |
| Profile of the candidate | * likes to work with children, youth, elderly or disabeled people and who knows how to get in touch with them (or not be afraid of them),
* likes to discover new things, open-minded,
* active, taking initiative, creative
* communicative,
* responsible, able to deal with often hyperactive youth,
* such interests as sport, music, dance or any other kind of passion with which volunteer can infect young people are very appreciated.
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**Environment description**

The activity last for 12 months and is situated within Tricity and surroundings (Tricity=Trójmiasto - Gdynia, Sopot, Gdańsk) area, which is quite famous because of its tourist facilities. The volunteer will be based in the one placement however there is a plan to visit for 1-2 days other placements in order to see the others project and maybe find new ideas.

There are 10 ESC volunteers all together however they live in flats (for 3-4 people) . Each volunteer has got their own bedroom and shared kitchen, bathroom with other ESC volunteers. The flats are situated quite close to the means of transport. The volunteers are getting ticket for the transport to get from the flat to the workplace. Apart from pocket money, they are getting also money for food each month.

I encourage you to have a look on our website:

<https://www.caritas.gda.pl/> where you can find informations about us
and about project <https://www.caritas.gda.pl/solidarity-matters/>

Please, fell free to join our ESC facebook group. You will be having possbility, a little bit more about our volunteers life ☺

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/447425262728616/>