

Any questions about Community Service?

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"I worked with an autistic boy in a Camphill community. At first I was not able to communicate with him. That was very hard for me, also because of the German language. But soon he accepted me and gave me a chance to be his friend. I kept learning more and more from him and at the end it was hard for me to say goodbye. I have learned that with this work it is not just a question of the language but primarily one of being there with one's heart." (Volunteer from Thailand)

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"When I look back on my year of community service, then I see that many of my low points have become highs. I have discovered my limits and seen that one can accomplish more than one thinks. There, where I felt weak, I was strengthened, and where I was fearful I became relaxed. I have become a more open person, can dismantle my prejudices and take a more positive view of life than before." (Volunteer from Romania)



Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend

Friends of Waldorf Education

Department of Community Services and Volunteering

As a free educational institution, the German organisation *Friends of Waldorf Education* acts as broker to arrange for volunteer community service in all of Germany and throughout the world. With more than one thousand volunteers per year, we are one of the largest supporting organisations for volunteer community services.

Numerous cooperative agreements have led to a worldwide network of over 700 partnerships. In Germany alone, we work with some 60 institutions in the area of incoming volunteers.

Experience has shown that one year of volunteer work offers orientation and space for personal development and is therefore of great importance for the biographical futures of the volunteers.

In addition to our work with volunteers, we have also been supporting and advising Waldorf pedagogical initiatives since 1971 and arranging for school sponsorships for children from financially weak families.

Since 2006, we have also been active in the area of emergency pedagogy in numerous crisis regions throughout the world.



Community Services
in Germany

Incoming Programme



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What is Community Service?

Community service is voluntary service in a social facility that is rendered without pay. It offers you the opportunity to engage yourself socially for one year, thereby becoming familiar with a different culture and new areas of work. In this way you can combine helping and learning.

The Incoming programme of the *Friends of Waldorf Education* aims to make it possible for people from across the globe to perform community service in Germany. The work assignment in a social environment, the intercultural exchange and the interchanges with other people give you space for personal development and orientation.

Community service in the Incoming programme is made possible by the German Federal Voluntary Service, which is supported by the *Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth*.



Who can participate?

All who:

- are at least 18 years of age (no upper age limit)
- have their permanent place of residence outside of Germany
- can express themselves effectively in German
- are already socially engaged at home
- are prepared to blend into a new culture and new social environment
- are interested in our areas of work and open to anthroposophy



You will receive:

- free accommodations and meals
- monthly pocket money
- health, accident and liability insurance coverage
- seminars and pedagogical monitoring
- support with obtaining a visa

The costs for the visa, for a preparatory language course as well as for the trip to Germany and back must normally be borne by yourself. In individual cases, the *Friends of Waldorf Education* can pay a travel expenses subsidy.

Seminars and pedagogical supervision

During your community service you will participate in 25 seminar days, at which there will be space for personal exchanges of views and reflecting on your activities and life in Germany. Beyond this, our staff will support you for your entire year in all your questions about your community service.



The basis of our work

Institutions with which we cooperate in the area of community service work on the basis of the principles of anthroposophy as established by Rudolf Steiner. These principles apply to various areas of life, including social organisation, medicine, agriculture, art and education.

Waldorf education based on anthroposophy is specially oriented to the individuality of each child. Waldorf education is “education towards freedom” that aims to support the entire development of each child.

Areas of work

In **social therapeutic and curative educational institutions**, people with and without a disability work together. The volunteers support these people in all their daily activities (eating, getting dressed, personal hygiene, etc.) and work with them in their households as well as in various types of workshops (woodworking shop, weaving mill, pottery, etc.).

In **Waldorf schools**, the volunteers support the teachers by attending to individual children with special needs. In an after school care centre, the children are supported with their lessons in a family atmosphere.

In the **kindergartens**, the volunteers support the educators in structuring the day for children between the ages of 2 and 6.

Volunteers working in **care for the elderly** assist elderly persons with eating, getting dressed, bodily hygiene, etc., and with handling their daily tasks.

With **biodynamic agriculture**, responsible cohabitation of humans, soil and animals occupies the centre of attention. The volunteers work in market gardening and farming as well as animal husbandry. In Germany, many of the social therapeutic institutions to which we supply volunteers also have a biodynamic farm.

