

**EVS location: Town of Kaišiadorys, Lithuania**

**EVS project: Activity in Kaišiadorys social services center (<http://www.spc.puslapiai.lt/>)**

**EVS project duration: 2018.03.01 – 2018.08.31**

**Application: CV and motivation letter to [evspatria@gmail.com](mailto:evspatria@gmail.com)**

**Volunteer: 2 volunteers wanted, 1 from France and 1 from Italy**

### **About**

Kaišiadorys social services center is a municipal budgetary authority. Its role is to provide general and specialized services. The regular activities are:

- training of social skills and support of the skills gained in children's day groups;
- organization of socio-cultural activities for the disabled people;
- provision of social day care for the disabled in the day groups;
- organization of summer camps for the beneficiaries;
- involving of the beneficiaries in various socio-cultural and social projects and in organization of them.



### **Workers**

The center employs 4 social workers, 1 social educator, 3 assistants of social workers, 5 employees for sports and other creative activities and the support staff.

### **General services**

- information, counseling, mediation, representation;
- socio-cultural: leisure activities;
- health: sports and massage;
- psychological assistance: individual counseling and group sessions;
- development of working skills: sewing, knitting, pottery, wickerwork, art;
- educational training: computer literacy, seminars, courses, camps;
- tillage and farm work at home for the disabled;
- meals at the charity canteen;
- personal hygiene and care: shower, laundry, haircuts;
- special transport services for the disabled persons.

### **Special services**

- training of social skills and support of the skills gained is provided for the families which are at risk and their children. The center has got over 200 families at risk;
- training of social skills and support of the skills gained for the children from socially disadvantaged families in children's day groups. The group consists of 16 children;
- training of social skills and support services for disadvantaged families and children;
- help-to-door service for the disabled people in their homes to do the housework or when they need help when taking part in social activities;
- social care team provides a series of services, i.e. the disabled people are provided comprehensive support and training during the day at Kaišiadorys SSC. These services are provided every day except the weekend. The group includes 6 recipients.

### **Target group: disabled people**

On different days during the week additional groups of disabled people gather from different districts to join the activities such as ceramics, arts, handicrafts, physical activities, quilt sewing, etc. The beneficiaries choose the activities individually according to their hobbies. A psychologist consults individually, leads group activities and relaxation sessions.

### **Target group: children**

Around 16 children visit the children day care center every day. They use the computers, do their homework, play ping-pong, basketball, board games, do handicrafts, prepare for various celebrations and puppet theater plays, etc. The center is meant to be a safe environment for the children after school, where they can improve their creative abilities, learn to communicate in a constructive way and have means for a more constructive leisure time.

### **Environment**

Kaišiadorys is a small town of about 8664 inhabitants. It is situated between the two biggest cities in Lithuania: Kaunas and Vilnius (40 and 60 km distance accordingly). There is a good connection with both cities by train or bus.

Our center is the only one providing social services in the district. Even though the town is distant and small, here you can also find cultural centre where you can join various art workshops (ceramic, wicker weave, painting, drawing or music workshops), find literature at public library, play bowling or pool. There are several shopping malls, a Catholic church. The town is small and

therefore the foreigners will be easily recognized in public. Still, there school students able to speak English as well as volunteers in the “Order of Malta” and “Caritas” organizations, who are open to communication and happy to meet foreign people in their town. Since the volunteers most probably will be coming to volunteer every day from Kaunas, it is very convenient since the train station is located right next to our institution. It takes 20 min by train to reach Kaisiadorys from Kaunas.



### Proposed activities

Volunteers working with the visitors of the center will be able to learn various sort of applied fine arts: ceramics, wicker work, quilt sewing, wood works, decoupage, leather ware making, and paper folding handicrafts. During the service the volunteers will gain various skills: communicative, personal, social, initiative. The volunteers will learn the language of our country, will get to know our culture, traditions and customs.

### Volunteer's role at children daycare centre (Volunteer from France)

The volunteer will be invited to play various games together with the children: ping-pong, basketball, outdoor games and table games. He/she will help in handicrafts such as paper folding, leather ware works, ceramics, quilt sewing, clay figures, making dolls for the theater, etc. The children together with the workers and the volunteers will organize puppet theater plays and acts. The volunteer will be welcomed to assist the children of the day care center in organizing various celebrations such as: Christmas, Carnival, Easter, etc. The volunteer will be invited to help in organizing the following events: making decorations together with the children, creating theatre plays. We will need help in organizing birthday celebrations for kids. We expect that the volunteer will introduce us to his/her country, culture, traditions and customs. The volunteer will have space and time to realize his/her own ideas and projects.

### Volunteer's role at the daycare centre for people with disabilities (Volunteer from Italy)

The volunteer will help to organize activities for people with disabilities. The volunteer will help to dress up, eat, take care of personal hygiene and communicate for dependent people (those, who have physical and mental handicap). The volunteer help those, who have only physical disabilities, to participate in activities of the day care center such as: ceramics workshops, arts, wood works, quilt sewing, handicrafts, etc. He/she will help to prepare the working place and to clean it in the end. The volunteer will be invited to play darts and checkers with the beneficiaries, and also to make easy physical movements. The volunteer will be invited to join the following activities: organization and preparation for various events, art workshops, trips to concerts and gatherings of people with physical handicap. The volunteer will be able to help to organize summer camps. The volunteer will be able to organize birthday parties for the kids with games and entertainment, sport matches with other children of the day care center, pick-nicks in the nature (by the lake) with games, etc. The volunteer will have space and time to realize his/her own ideas and projects.

### Volunteer's profile

We accept volunteers regardless of their background. However, it is crucial to love children and to be willing to work with children from social risk environment and the disabled. This takes lots of patience and empathy. It is also very important that the volunteers wouldn't have any harmful habits or addictions. We would like to have a volunteer who is communicative, initiative, responsible, not afraid of challenges and willing to get acquainted and understand the culture of another country and its social realities. It would be of great value if the volunteer would be ready to give our recipients and our community some short information about his/her country, its customs and traditions, places of interest and famous people.

### Practical things

1. Volunteering 30-35 h/week in the organization. There will be one person (a tutor) responsible for planning the schedule with you, advising on everyday tasks
2. We provide a monthly train ticket to travel from Kaunas to Kaisiadorys (but not within Kaunas)
3. Every volunteer gets a private room in a shared apartment (3-5 people) in Kaunas (more about this during the personal skype appointment with the coordinator of the project)
4. You will be part of the group of volunteers at the coordinating organization A.C. Patria
5. You will have to pay your internet connection fee which may reach ~6 EUR/month
6. You will have 3-month-long Lithuanian language course

### Trainings

1. On arrival training
2. Midterm training (only if the activity lasts more than 6 months in total)
3. Monthly meetings with the volunteers in Kaunas
4. Regular meetings with your mentor.