

BÜRGERHAUS „ALTERNATIVE“ HUMANISTISCHER REGIONALVERBAND E.V.

<http://humanisten-halle.de/index.php?id=5>



SUMMARY

The community center (german: Bürgerhaus) „alternativE“ was founded in the year of 2000, as a meeting place for people of different age groups. It is in the southern part of Halle and supports people who are facing social problems, as from the nearby areas Halle-Süd and Buna-Viertel (a quarter named after the chemical industry "Buna"). But in the meantime, the rooms and offers of the community center are used by people from all around Halle and the region.

The community center offers a great variety of activities in many different fields. The children and the young people have the possibility to learn how to play a certain instrument in the musical cabinet.

The community center also offers different kinds of weekly courses for all people. For example, there is a crafting group and two different groups that meet to draw and paint together and also two groups of older people who work out together and do gymnastics. Moreover, the community center rents rooms for all kind of family celebrations, graduations, or birthdays. In addition, there are several parties during the year, where many people come to the Bürgerhaus and are able to do different activities that are on theme. There is a big summer celebration and other festivities for different holidays. There is a repair shop for bikes, which gives you the possibility to learn how to change flat tire of a bike, install new bike lights or set the circuit. Another interesting offer of the community center is the PRO 50 Group. Every Monday at 14:00 o'clock there is an organized meeting for women above 50, with the purpose of discussing about their common interests and helping each other in everyday life activities.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The community center offers children and young people a chance to spend their free time doing something else, rather than sitting at home in front of their phones or the TV. In the evening there are always children and their parents coming to the Bürgerhaus to play in the big garden, in which there are many different options to play and do sports. In the summertime there even are two swimmingpools that the children really like to bathe in.

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Furthermore, the community center offers the children to stay overnight and experience an adventurous night, filled with thematic games, bonfires and night wandering. There is also the possibility to play in the children and youth room, where they can also have a disco.

In preparation of holidays the children can also craft and paint themed products.

The community center „Alternative“ organizes children birthday parties. The birthday parties include room decorations, small gifts for the birthday child, variety of games, drinks and food. Last but not least, „Alternative“ offers various sports and recreational activities for the children and the youngsters, such as card games, darts, table football, basketball, table tennis etc.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

- You work afternoon hours!
- Only few clients and staff members speak English!



FIELD OF ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER WITHIN PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT










The voluntary service at this POA mainly is social work with children and youth!

The international volunteers will complete their voluntary service in the field of children and youth work in the Community Center „alternative“. They will be introduced to the everyday life in a community center and they will get an insight into the work with children, adolescents and young adults. The volunteers will experience and actively support the promotion of community life of young people, older people and sociocultural work with different generations, which is the essential component of our work.

During their service, the volunteers will experience community spirit, equality, tolerance and solidarity. Through their involvement, the volunteers' self-responsibility and independence, as well as their social responsibility and social engagement will be encouraged. The volunteers should have an interest in working with children, adolescents and young adults. They should be open-minded, have a basic knowledge of German (preferably) and be willing to adapt to the flexible working hours (including working in the evening and for the weekends).






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VOLUNTEERS PROFILE – SPECIFIC FOR THIS PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT

-  interest in working with children and youth
-  empathy regarding children and youth and older people
-  some experiences in working with children and youth
-  openness to children and youth with difficulties
-  interest and/or skills for sports, music, cultural or creative work and interest to bring in this knowledge into the work
-  volunteer should be authentic, alone standing, responsible, punctual, open, honest, flexible and pro-active towards children
-  volunteer needs a quite high frustration tolerance and should have low expectations in respect to the implementation of own plans
-  good German is very helpful
-  certificate of good conduct without any entries

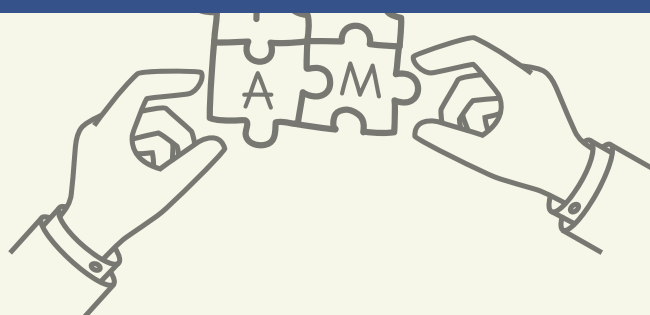


VOLUNTEERS PROFILE – GENERAL

-  18 to 28 years (exceptions: people with disability)
-  High school certificate or comparable personal qualifications
-  knowledge of English (B2) and/or German (willingness to learn starting in the home country)
-  motivation to learn through voluntary service (as peace service) in different fields and to get involved with civil society
-  openness to the special structure of a voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle

MANDATORY „SERVICE RELATED ACTIVITIES“ :

- Participation in the accompanying educational program (seminars)
- Implementation of at least one personal project
- Occupation with and engagement in topics and activities of (local) civil society
- Learning German in depth
- Willingness to get involved in civil society in one's home country after the service



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ACTIVITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER:

- Working with children and the adults on free time and educational offers through special get-together clubs in the field of youth education
- Helping the social workers and educators in the preparation, implementation and follow-up of events, such as parties for children, activities during holidays for school children from the day care center through special get-together clubs in the field of youth education
- Support in overcoming the everyday issues
- Motivating the members of Bürgerhaus (Community Center) into creating independent useful recreational activities
- Support of social cooperation through contacts with the children and the adolescents
- Conversation with the children and the adolescents – building a relationship based on trust and confidence
- Teamwork with facilities in social environment
- Support with Public Relations activities (such as distribution of flyers, translation into English)
- Creating a pleasant atmosphere for visits in the Community Center
- Help with everyday household chores (helping giving out lunch, doing dishes,...)

REPORTS OF FORMER VOLUNTEERS

DENIS, 2016-17

"How did you imagine your voluntary service and how was it going?

In the beginning, there were so many questions in my head, such as "why am I going there?", "why am I doing this?", "how will this affect my life?" and "will all of my friends, when I come back, still be there?" (...)

In general, my voluntary service was interesting for me, I had a chance to work with so many great people. But also travel a lot within Germany and see a bit of it. Of course, there were times when I was struggling.

Does the hosting project suit your imaginings?

Somehow yes, when I first applied at Bürgerhaus I couldn't really imagine myself being there, who are the people that I will be working with, how the place is going to look like and how my work was going to be. But then, after having spent my first days in Halle, my stay had become much more imaginable.

What did you like/dislike?

During my voluntary service, there were so many nice things, that happened. What I liked the most, was the atmosphere in both of my places of assignment. It was completely different from one another. But I also liked the people (colleagues). I had very much fun with working with children, too. (...)

What I disliked about this voluntary service is, that sometimes, in Bürgerhaus, I was getting a feeling, that I was a real worker. Sometimes I had to clean the kitchen and it felt as if they were paying me for that. I think that a volunteer should stay a volunteer. (...)

How was your contact with the team?

I'm very glad, that I had a very friendly and very talkative time with both places of assignment, especially in Hasi, where I had a chance to talk to so many people about their interests but also mine.

As for Bürgerhaus and Hasi I happened to feel so much as a part of their group. In the beginning in Bürgerhaus, I had a very difficult time with communicating with my colleagues there, because only few people were happening to speak English. But after some time, I learned a little bit of German, which made it way easier to cope.

Which new things did you learn?

When it comes to new things, I happened to learn so many new things during this voluntary year, such as new working methods with children, new children games, how to make Knüppelkuchen, how to make Zuckerwatte for children, learn how to be good at Bogenschießen, increase my knowledge of activism, how to organize events, playing musical instruments, but I also learned a lot about myself and managing my own time.

How good can you express yourself in German now?

In Bürgerhaus, I was all of the time talking in German to my colleagues, and the German lessons helped a lot. So I am very proud of my German skills; I happened to understand, what people are telling me, but also answer some basic conversations. I can survive during the day with my German.

Did you develop yourself personally?

Yes, definitely. During this year I developed myself in many different positive ways. I learned new things about myself, and also how to come in different situations which helped me to see things differently.

Did your voluntary service make contribution to your professional orientation?

I wish, while I was doing my voluntary service, I had been working more on my professional orientation (filmmaking).