

# „European Solidarity in Upper Austria“

In different Organisations in Upper Austria we want to have the support and ideas from European Volunteers. The different hosting organisations have already long term experience, some of them are new ones. Please find below the description of the different hosting projects and when applying please mention the title of the project!

## **Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen - St. Isidor**

[https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/948000886\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/948000886_en)

**Start: September 2019 & February 2020, duration 11-12 months**

**9 Volunteers**

**Place: Leonding**

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independant as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

Sankt Isidor looks like a small village with one kindergarden, two afterschool care centres and five houses where children live (assisted living). In addition, there are two schools, a small church, an outdoor pool and many playgrounds for the children. In walking distance, one can find grocery shops and the next tram stop. Sankt Isidor lies close to the provincial capital of Upper Austria, Linz (just 10 minutes by tram). Linz is located next to the Danube and offers many cultural events. From Linz, one can reach the UNESCO world heritage area of Salzkammergut in under an hour by train.

We offer three different kinds of projects for volunteers in St. Isidor: supporting either the Kindergarten, the afterschool care centre or with assisted living. Depending on a volunteer's experience and preferences, we will be able to address the right kind of tasks. The main tasks are to support the staff in their daily work and to support the children in their leisure-time activities such as playing, sports, swimming, excursions, cooking. Further tasks include cleaning together with the children as a part of pedagogical tasks, as well as keeping rules in the team and setting boundaries for the children. Each volunteer will work in a group of five to eight children with and without disabilities. In the group, the volunteers will receive a warm lunch. Volunteers are working on their project from Monday until Thursday. Every volunteer has five weeks of holidays and is free on the public holidays aswell. In the Kindergarten and afterschool care centre, there are fixed holidays in the week before easter and during christmas time, in the assisted living one can take their holidays individually. The accomodation for volunteers is located in the village of Sankt Isidor, so the distance between accomodation and project is within 100 meters. Volunteers have their own room in either a single flat or shared apartment with a shared kitchen, a TV, free wifi and laundry service.

We encourage the volunteers to bring their own culture, abilities, ideas and creativity into the group by cooking, singing songs, creating leisure-time activities and so on. Thus, the children in the groups can experience a new culture, new traditions and widen their horizon through cultural exchanges. In return, the volunteers will get an insight into the Austrian culture and into working with children with disabilities. Thus intercultural learning and communication shall be the aim for both the volunteer and the host organisation. In addition, the volunteers receive full support from our staff and their mentor.

### **Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen – St. Elisabeth**

[https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911896031\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911896031_en)

**Start: September 2019 & February 2020, duration 11-12 months**

**4 Volunteers**

**Place: Linz**

The organisation "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" attends people with disabilities in living, working and educational interests. Our aim is to include people with disabilities into the society and support them to become as independent as possible. Our organisation offers a wide range of services to people with disabilities in Upper Austria e.g. assisted living, work, training, therapy, kindergarden. "Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen" is one of the largest organisations in Upper Austria, which provides services for people with disabilities.

St. Elisabeth is located in Linz, the provincial capital of Upper Austria, on the hill "Froschberg" close to the city centre and the city parks aswell. Linz is located next to the Danube and offers many cultural events. From Linz, one can reach the UNESCO world heritage area of Salzkammergut in under an hour by train.

The project for volunteers in St. Elisabeth is called "Werkstätten" or sheltered workshops. The project is responsible for the educational qualification for young people with disabilities at the age of 15 to 30 years. One workshop is specialised on blind and visually impaired people, the second workshop offers several qualifications (such as learning to use a computer, sewing, working in a grocery shop, cooking, metalwork and many more). The practical education is accompanied by regular learning sessions, training job skills, individual coachings and internships in companies. We try to focus on the individual strengths, interests, needs and wishes of the young people. The aim of the project is to integrate young people with disabilities into free labour market.

The volunteer will assist staff members in the project by helping to train and educate a group of four to eight young people with disabilities. The volunteer will support our staff in daily routines, e.g. assisting leading training-sessions, learning with the youths, training job competences, social competences and so on. The volunteers learn about working in a multi-professional team, pursuing the individual goals (of the young people) together with the staff and about assisting people with disabilities on high pedagogic standards. We encourage the volunteers to bring their own culture, abilities, ideas and creativity into the group by cooking, singing songs, creating leisure-time activities and so on. Thus, the young people in the workshops can experience a new culture, new traditions

and widen their horizon through cultural exchanges. In return, the volunteers will get an insight into the Austrian culture and into working with young people with disabilities. Thus, intercultural learning and communication shall be the aim for both the volunteer and the host organisation. In addition, the volunteers receive full support from our staff and their mentor.

We provide a small appartement (single bedrooms) for the volunteers in the building, where they will work. The accomodation is equipped with a small kitchen, shower/WC, TV, free wifi and a washing machine.

### **Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen - INVITA**

[https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911894382\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/911894382_en)

**Start: January/February 2020, duration 11-12 months**

### **5 Volunteers**

Place: Engelhartzell

In the beautiful countryside of Upper Austria – just next to the Danube – in a small village called Engelhartzell – Caritas invita is located. To give you an idea about where Engelhartzell is: it is about 56 kilometers from Linz, the capital of Upper Austria and about 29 kilometres from Passau, Germany. Invita is part of the Upper Austrian Caritas department for “People with disabilities”.

Our volunteers will live and work at our site in Engelhartzell. Ezell (how we call it) has about 1.000 inhabitants and is a village in the countryside, just next to the Danube. It may be small but especial for lovers of the countryside and the outdoors it has plenty to offer. Hundreds of kilometres of bike- and hiking trails just wait to be explored, such as the world famous long distance hiking trail who leads from Passau to Grein (450 km) or the long distance Danube cycle path. Within minutes, you can reach by car in winter a cross-country skitrail. In the summer month you will have the possibility to go to the outdoor pool with bathing access to the Danube in Ezell. In Ezell you will also find a tennis court, a few shops, a supermarket, a doctor, a firedepartment, a police station, and a emergency medical service. Here you will find everything you need for your daily needs. In Upper Austria, we have many lakes and mountains, which just wait to be explored. You may also take trips on the boat to Passau or Linz or even further.

By car, the next bigger cities are just about an hour drive away. Passau (Germany) can be reached within 29 km and the Upper Austrians capital Linz is only 56 km away. In these cities you will find malls, movie theatres, nightlife, etc. Ezell has a public transportation system (busses), which runs on a regular basis e.g. to Linz, Schärding, Passau but only a few times a day, and on a reduced schedule on weekends. You will have the possibility to use our company car for leisure time activities. Therefore it is necessary if the volunteers are in possession of a valid driving license class B. In order to explore the close surroundings of Engelhartzell, we provide a bicycle if needed.

All of our volunteers will be in different groups (living or activity group). Depending on an applicant's experience and preferences, we will be able to address the right kind of tasks. They will support our staff in their daily work. Typical tasks will be to support our clients to run their household, prepare food, support our clients in their daily routines (dressing, cooking, writing, reading, talking, cleaning,

etc.), accompany them to their work places, and support them with their work tasks, and to accompany them during their leisure time (taking a walk, out- and indoor activities, movies, swimming, theatre, concerts, handi-craft work, etc.). In the beginning of the project the volunteers will settle and get to know their project group. Later on the volunteer can also bring in her/his own ideas to the project.

Every volunteer will have his/her own furnished bedroom in an apartment with a shared bathroom, living room/kitchen. The common rooms are equipped with a TV, and free WiFi, washing machine. Here in Engelhartzell we have an operational kitchen for the staff and for the clients. Our future volunteers will have access to free lunch and a free snack in the forenoon.