

Volunteering in Romania



CHANCE FOR LIFE Foundation welcomes international volunteers within the programmes offered to children in need from Romania.

During the years, many volunteers from Germany, Norway, Denmark and Canada have joined our team and have worked together with us for periods ranging from 3 months to 3 years. The very positive experiences we had proved to us that the overseas volunteers bring not only a high level of motivation and enthusiasm, but also different knowledge and area of expertise that enable us to provide the best care services to our children.

Within most projects, you can stay for 4 weeks, 8 weeks or 12 weeks, and for long term volunteers (3-12 months) Chance for Life offers special conditions. We'll be happy to have you back after a short term volunteering experience with us, so even if you chose to come for 4 weeks or less, you can always return once you have experienced our programmes.

The programmes that need the help of international volunteers are Hope for Today, Vodafone Scholarship, Chance for Life Scholarship and Spect-actors for Non-discrimination.

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CONDITIONS APPLICABLE FOR ALL FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS

For protecting the physical and psychological wellbeing of our children we do not accept volunteers that have a criminal history. Everyone working with the children, including the Foundation's Romanian employees, has to prove this through official clean criminal records, sent prior her/his coming to volunteer in Romania or working in Chance for Life.

We also need a medical certificate stating your physical and psychological health and ability to work with children before accepting you as a volunteer in Romania in our programs.

People failing to provide these two certificates will be denied access to our programs as volunteers.

FINANCIAL INFO

Unlike many other international volunteering programs in Romania or Eastern Europe, working with Chance for Life is completely free of any charge. If the foreign volunteers are willing to support Chance for Life activities through donations and fundraising in their communities, we are grateful and happy to provide any support materials as leaflets, pictures and testimonials. Any financial help makes a difference in our activities, but this is not a condition for volunteering in Romania, within Chance for Life programs.

- The only costs you'll have to cover are your own expenses: accommodation, travel, health insurance and food, and in some particular situations we'll be able to contribute to covering a part of these costs.
 - The Chance for Life team will support you throughout the entire process of travelling to Romania and within Romania. You will be picked up from the airport and given a lift to the chosen program; upon your request, during the first part of your work in Romania you will be accompanied by a Romanian member of the staff.
 - We will also offer you all the support for identifying a suitable apartment to live in and negotiate a fair price and, in some cases, we might be able to offer you from the very beginning very good and cheap accommodation opportunities.
 - If you choose one of the projects where children have lunch at the centre – like "Chance for Life" and "Vodafone" Scholarships - you will also be invited to eat with them and the rest of the staff. The food is delicious and completely free of any additives.
 - You will have a Romanian staff member responsible for your safety and access to a 24 hours telephone line for emergencies.
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GETTING USED TO A DIFFERENT CULTURE

All volunteers benefit from an orientation week, during which they are introduced to the Chance for Life programmes, but also to Romania and the city of their choice, Romanian culture and the main cultural differences. The volunteers are given simple and effective tips for getting easily integrated in Romanian communities. The orientation programs are held by English / French / Italian speakers, specialists in cultural diversity.

For volunteers working in Romania for more than 6 months, Chance for Life is happy to pay weekly Romanian lessons, with teachers that proved the efficiency of their methods by teaching a number of German volunteers that now are fluent in Romanian. We regret for not being able to afford offering this opportunity to all the people choosing to volunteer in Romania. However, we can intermediate these lessons for you at very affordable prices (around 10 Euros / session), and working with children is probably the most effective way of learning a foreign language.

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VOLUNTEERING IN THE “HOPE FOR TODAY” PROGRAM

Hope for Today is a program for HIV-positive institutionalized youth that have a wide range of disabilities, from learning disabilities to autism. The project aims to help the kids to learn how to live independently (for more info, please see the project presentation).

The international volunteers make a big difference in the youth's life, through a crucial life skills project, as well as being their friends and doing together a number of wonderful leisure activities, such as sport, travelling, even clubbing and so on.

Hope for Today is a demanding but rewarding program.

During the years, most of the international volunteers have chosen this project. All of them said it is a life changing experience, seeing how their work is dramatically improving the lives of the youth.



VOLUNTEERS' PROFILE

The volunteers we need in this program:

- have a BA in a social science (e.g. social work, psychology, pedagogy)
- have strong communication skills, being able to communicate with a wide range of people
- are willing to learn about intercultural differences and take them into account in their work abroad
- are willing to learn Romanian
- are willing to participate in training programmes and youth exchanges offered by CHANCE FOR LIFE in Romania and abroad

VOLUNTEERS' BENEFITS

CHANCE FOR LIFE Foundation offers the volunteers an exciting international environment, in a team made up of young professionals. The volunteers benefit from international and national training programs, youth exchanges, summer camps and lots of fun.

You will have the opportunity to not only make a major difference in the lives of people in need, but you'll also offer your self the chance to discover a different part of this world and maybe fall in love with a different culture.

After 1 or more months in CHANCE FOR LIFE, the volunteers are able to speak fluently Romanian and significantly improve their English, develop strong project management skills, became aware of cultural differences and are able to take them into account when working into an international environment. Not to mention the life-long friendships that they will have in Romania.

VOLUNTEERING IN ROMANIA

VOLUNTEERING IN THE VODAFONE SCHOLARSHIP

The Vodafone Scholarship is a wonderful program located in a wonderful corner of the world – the Danube Delta, a unique place in Europe. Being the last city the Danube sees before flowing into the Black Sea, Sulina is an ancient town, isolated and romantic, populated by very friendly people and offering an incredible closeness to a wild, unspoiled nature.

For bird, flower and tree lovers, Sulina is a paradise.

The program implemented in this city aims to support 30 intellectually gifted children to develop to their full potential. The program is an After-School Centre, where children come daily to learn two foreign languages (English and French), to attend tutorials for their home works, to play and to have fun.



VOLUNTEERS' PROFILE

The volunteers we need in this program:

- Have strong skills in one or more of the following areas: computers, playing an instrument, doing hand crafts, animation and have the willingness to teach the children those skills
- Have good painting, fixer-upper and restoration skills, for helping with the renovation of the space of the Day Care Centre
- Have strong communication skills, being able to communicate with a wide range of people
- Are willing to learn about intercultural differences and take them into account in their work abroad and are willing to learn Romanian
- Are willing to get involved in activities like PR, marketing, fundraising within Romania and abroad
- Are willing to participate in training programmes and youth exchanges offered by CHANCE FOR LIFE in Romania and abroad
- Are not scared of working in a remote location (the access to Sulina is made by ship, in a trip that takes between 1 hour and 3 hours, depending to the ship)

VOLUNTEERS' BENEFITS

The Vodafone Scholarship and CHANCE FOR LIFE Foundation offer the volunteers an exciting environment, in an amazing location. The spring time, summer time and autumns are feasts of nature – the volunteers are able to enjoy the relaxed pleasures of life outside a crowded city. The winters can be cold and sometimes the access to Sulina is limited for a few days, if the Danube freezes. However, this is not a tragedy as the town has its own medical services, supermarkets and all required infrastructure.

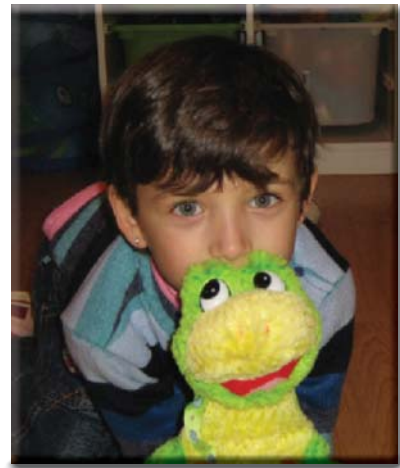
The volunteers will work in a team composed by teachers and young Romanian volunteers, aged between 15 and 19. The volunteers benefit from international and national training programs, youth exchanges, summer camps and lots of fun. After the 1 or more months in CHANCE FOR LIFE, the volunteers are able to understand and speak some Romanian, develop strong project management skills, became aware of cultural differences and are able to take them into account when working into an international environment. Not to mention the life-long friendships that they will have in Romania.

VOLUNTEERING IN ROMANIA

VOLUNTEERING IN THE CHANCE FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIP

The “Chance for Life Scholarship” program is a long-term program that lasts for 12 years. Children are accepted in the program at the beginning of their first year of primary school, when they are 6 or 7 years old, and graduate the program when they go to the University, at 18 years of age.

New groups of 8 children are accepted every 4 years, so the consistency of our approach is generating the most incredible results.



VOLUNTEERS' PROFILE

Chance for Life needs volunteers that have one or more of the following conditions:

- Hold a qualification in teaching English/ French or Italian, to work in a team with Chance for Life's teachers.
- Hold a qualification as therapists; specialists in playing, music, art-therapy will be very useful
- Hold a qualification as a youth animator
- Have strong skills in one or more of the following areas: computers, playing an instrument, doing hand crafts, animation and have the willingness to teaching the children those skills
- Have strong communication skills, being able to communicate with a wide range of people
- Are willing to get involved in activities like PR, marketing, fundraising within Romania and abroad
- Are willing to learn about intercultural differences and take them into account in their work abroad and are willing to learn Romanian
- Are willing to participate in training programmes and youth exchanges offered by CHANCE FOR LIFE in Romania and abroad

VOLUNTEERS' BENEFITS

CHANCE FOR LIFE Scholarship offers the volunteers an exciting environment, working with an amazing group of children. Being located at the Foundation's headquarters, the volunteers will also have the chance to learn more about the organisation and get involved in the process of continuing improvement of the services we offer.

The volunteers will work in a team composed by teachers and Romanian young volunteers, aged between 15 and 19. The volunteers benefit from international and national training programs, youth exchanges, summer camps and lots of fun. After the 1 or more months in CHANCE FOR LIFE, the volunteers are able to understand and even speak some Romanian, develop strong project management skills, became aware of cultural differences and became more able to take them into account when working into an international environment. Not to mention the life-long friendships that they will have in Romania.

VOLUNTEERING IN ROMANIA

VOLUNTEERING IN SPECT-ACTORS FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION

This is one of the fastest growing projects of CHANCE FOR LIFE Foundation that aims at raising awareness regarding the effects of discrimination and is looking for ways to fight against it.

The project initiated in Bucharest is expanding in many other cities of Romania and underpins the creation of a new organisation, named The Romanian Federation for Community Arts (FRAC).



VOLUNTEERS PROFILE

The volunteers we need in this program:

- Have a strong commitment to fighting against discrimination and oppression of any kind
- Have a strong interest for arts (drama, music, dancing, painting, photography or any other arts)
- Are interested in getting involved in public performances
- Have strong communication skills, being able to communicate with a wide range of people
- Are willing to get involved in activities like PR, Marketing and Fundraising within Romania and abroad
- Are willing to learn about intercultural differences and take them into account in their work abroad and are willing to learn Romanian
- Are willing to participate in training programmes and youth exchanges offered by CHANCE FOR LIFE in Romania and abroad
- Are willing to travel in Romania within a CHANCE FOR LIFE team for training other organisations willing to use the arts for fighting against discrimination.

VOLUNTEERS BENEFITS

CHANCE FOR LIFE Foundation offers the volunteers an exciting growing environment, in a team of young professionals and volunteers.

The volunteers will benefit from international and national training programs, youth exchanges, summer camps and lots of fun.

After the 1 or more months in CHANCE FOR LIFE, the volunteers are able to understand and speak little Romanian, develop strong project management skills and fundraising skills, become aware of cultural differences and are able to take them into account when working into an international environment.

Not to mention the life-long friendships that they will have in Romania.