

effective July 2017

Information for Volunteers

OneHappyFamily Community Center thanks you for your interest. We are looking forward to welcoming you soon!

BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

We ask you to arrive during a weekend. This allows you to settle in and explore the city before our orientation meeting for new volunteers on Monday.

Please inform us (volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org) about your arrival date in Mytilini, as soon as you have booked your flights. If possible, we will pick you up from the airport and drive you to our volunteer house. Our volunteer house contains of four rooms with two beds each. Another two rooms are generally reserved for our coordinators. The house has two bathrooms, one of them with a shower, a kitchen, a large living room, WiFi, and is close to the city centre and the beach.

*Volunteer
House*



One Happy Family

The costs we ask from our volunteers include the rent for the volunteer house, transportation and lunch that everyone eats together at OHF. They are graded after the length of your stay:

25€ per day

20€ per day, if you stay at least one month

15€ per day, if you stay at least two months

Please hand your contribution in cash to Fabian on site.

If you are currently not able to pay the expenses but you would like to help at OHF, please contact us (volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org) and we will try to find a solution.

The expenses for breakfast and dinner are usually shared between the residents of the volunteer house. Please budget additional expenses for a joint night out at a tavern or trips on your free days. For a shared dinner at a tavern in Mytilini you pay about 10 to 15€, for a rental car about 30€ per day plus affordable fuel costs.

While packing your bag, please make sure that you pack appropriate clothes. Since we work with people from different cultures, try to bring clothes that cover shoulders and knees and that are not too revealing. Note that the summer months can be extremely hot. We might ask you to help carrying heavy items, so please bring comfortable and light working clothes.

In addition you need a towel, a sleeping bag, flip-flops and solid shoes, your passport if you want to visit Turkey, and (optionally) swimwear. You are welcome to use the washing machine at our community center. If you have clothes in your closet that you don't wear, feel free to bring them as well and donate them to our boutique.

costs

packing

We register all our volunteers at the municipality. On this account we ask you for your information in our application form. Thus, you don't have to bother with your volunteer registration.

registration

We advise our volunteers to inform themselves in detail about the current situation in the refugee crisis before their arrival. We will prepare you for your work at OHF in the orientation meeting. Nevertheless, it is essential for you to know about the bigger picture of your work and contribution.

Inform yourself!

YOUR ARRIVAL

location OHF:

at Thermis Road, opposite of the camp „Kara Tepe“

location volunteer house:

in the Varia area between airport and Mytilini centrum

contact Fabian (management):

+ 30 69 513 480 37, WhatsApp: +41 79 261 21 80

contact Mira (volunteer coordination)

+30 69 403 207 61, WhatsApp: +49 157 571 679 20

contacts

The airport on Lesvos, Mytilini Airport (MJT), is approached several times daily in summer season. You will probably have an intermediate stop at Athens Airport. Please note that the airline Olympic Airways/ Aegean asks their passengers to collect their bags in Athens and check them in again themselves.

flight

If you travel via ferry from Piraeus, Kavala or one of the surrounding islands please get in contact with us before your departure (volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org) if you have any questions.

flight

The airport is located a few kilometres outside of Mytilini. We will try to arrange to pick you up from the airport. If our schedule shouldn't allow us to do so, we will inform you early. The costs for a taxi from the airport to the volunteer house are approximately 6€.

DURING YOUR STAY

If you will work at OHF for several weeks, we advise you to buy a Greek SIM for your mobile. They are obtainable in every mobile store in Mytilini and cost about 10€ per month. This credit allows you to make free phone calls to other Greek numbers of the same provider and to use the internet if our OHF WiFi isn't available for you right now.

SIM card

Residences of our volunteer house share a shuttle to and from the OHF with one of our vans. We meet Mondays to Saturdays at 12 am for team coffee at the OHF and discuss the pending tasks of the day. Our working days end at around 9.30 pm. Every Saturday the team meets at 5 pm to clarify any organisational concerns and requests of the week. On Sundays the OHF is closed.

schedule

At OHF everybody is free to decide where and how to engage. The general idea is to support our workers, who are mostly refugees, in their tasks. We always need help in our clothing boutique, in the kitchen, at our child care, at our bank and at the café. New projects are always welcome. At our orientation meeting you will be informed about current projects and we will ask you to contribute your ideas.

At the orientation meeting you will also get to know our volunteer guidelines. They help us protecting our volunteers and ensure the quality of our community center.

We always try to support our volunteers as good as possible. Nevertheless, we can't have our eyes and ears everywhere, so we ask you to listen to yourself and seek help if needed. We work in an environment in which people could lose their patience, their hope and their mind. People could become thin-skinned and very temperamental. Be aware of these facts in your daily work at OHF. Please contact Fabian, one of your fellow volunteers or volunteer coordinators if you feel uncomfortable, insecure or overstrained by any situation.

*Self-
awareness*

AFTER YOUR DEPARTURE

Volunteering doesn't end with your departure. By sharing your experience with friends and family, you raise awareness for the situation on Lesvos in your home country. You can organise public talks (e.g. in your community, university and among your friends), use your social media and one-to-one talks. By confronting yourself with the harsh reality for refugees in Greece, you enabled yourself to make an impact and inspire people to follow your example. From our experience we know that most of our volunteers started because a friend told them about our work.

*awareness
work*

Please get in touch for any material or other support for your awareness work!

For any further questions please contact us under volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

Your OneHappyFamily team