

effective October 2018

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. For capacity reasons the team can't pick you up. Taxis from the airport cost around 10 Euros.

We are happy to support you in finding accommodation. In your Skype interview you will be informed about different housing options in Mytilini City Center. You can decide if you prefer staying in one of the shared flats or guest rooms of our coordination team or if you rather rent your own apartment via AirBnB for example.

accommodation

We ask our volunteers to cover their costs for the shuttles to and from the community center, coffee and tea and the lunch that everyone eats together at OHF. The contribution is 5€ per working day for your first six weeks working with us. After six weeks your costs will be covered by One Happy Family. Please hand your contribution in cash to our shift coordinators on site on the day of your arrival.

costs

Please budget additional expenses for your dinner, 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, 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.

packing

In addition, you need a towel, a sleeping bag, solid shoes, your passport if you want to visit Turkey, and a reusable coffee cup and drinking bottle.

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.

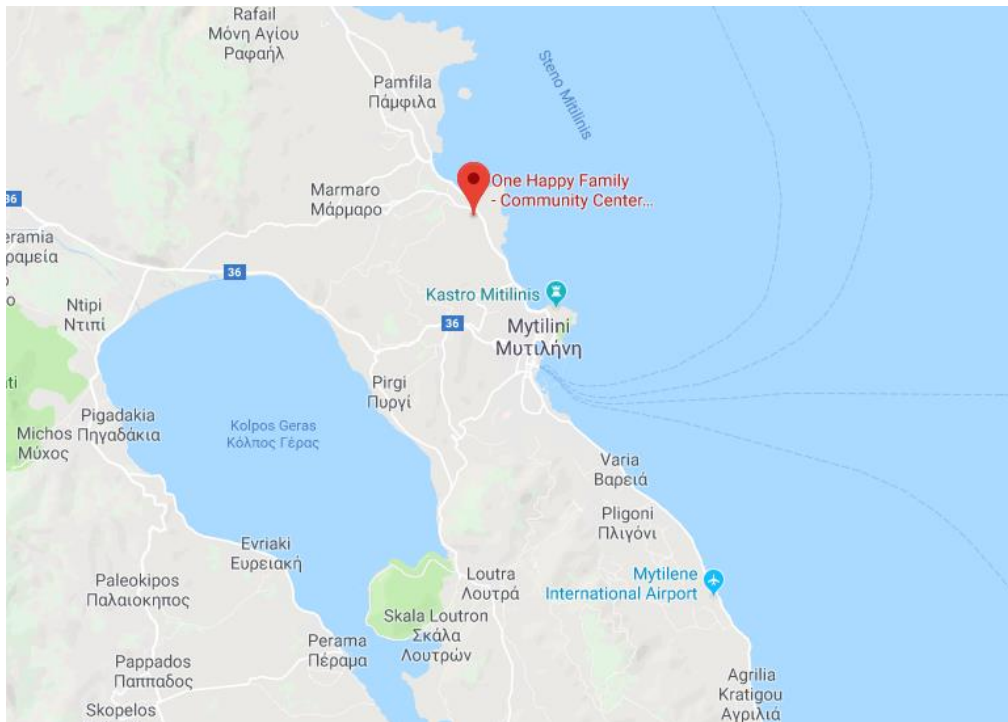
registration

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.

arrive informed!

Please note that One Happy Family is depending on private donations. In case of the project being closed for financial reasons, we will support you in finding another organisation on Lesbos.

YOUR ARRIVAL



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. The airport is located a few kilometres outside of Mytilini. The costs for a taxi from the airport to the city center are approximately 10€.

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.

ferry

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

We start every morning at 10.30am with the shuttle to OHF and return to the city center at around 8pm. At the community center, we meet at 10.45am for planning the day and discussing the pending tasks together with our shift coordinators. On Saturday and Sundays the OHF is closed.

At OHF everybody is free to decide where to engage. The general idea is to have our different projects offered by our volunteers and our helpers, volunteers from the camps, together. We always need help in projects like our child care (nest), at our bank and at the café. Please find more information about our projects on our homepage www.ohf-lesvos.org.

schedule

If you are interested in volunteering with us as a mid- or long-term, you find different coordination opportunities on our homepage. Even without previous experiences in working with refugees, you have the chance to offer your skills for example in childcare, media work or teaching. As a coordination volunteer, you will still have the opportunity to help in our daily projects.

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 and discuss challenges of humanitarian work. The aim of the meeting is to protect 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 Lesbos 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 One Happy Family team