

SIMPLE STEPS TO BECOMING A VOLUNTEER



Required skills:

- No skills are required but you must speak some English.
- The work is suitable for all ages and volunteers are warmly welcomed at all times of the year.
- Volunteers will usually assist the untrained teaching staff and the two orphanage “mothers”, plus contribute to the general interaction with the 45 children at the home. These children crave contact with the outside world, and the little ones desperately need help because there are too few adult staff members to cover their everyday needs.
- You will be living on the farm with the children and their carers so your hours must be flexible: the busy times are outside of school hours.
- There are no restrictions on time taken away to explore the local area and enjoy tourist attractions.

Volunteers will enjoy their stay far more if they are acquainted with the cultural differences and the difficulties faced by everyone living in this environment

Formalities: Placement forms etc.

- The management at Volta Home do not do paper work; booking forms; instructions; documents; duty rosters or questionnaires. Your itinerary and daily schedule is up to you.
- It is useful to contact previous volunteers or check the blogs on the website so that you can give some thought to what you might like to contribute.



Address of The Volta Home for Children

The orphanage is at Ve-Deme, just 25 minutes by bus (trotro) from the town of Hohoe in the Volta Region; 5 hours north of Accra.

Costs

- US \$150 (215 cedis - the local currency) is payable on arrival and covers the accommodation and all meals for any visit up to and including 4 weeks. After 4 weeks the cost for accommodation and meals is 50 cedis per week, or for part of any extra week.
- A donation of 20 cedis (\$15) is traditionally given to Mrs Annabi on arrival - because she goes to such trouble to make every meal an enjoyable one !

Accommodation

- Volunteers are housed on the premises in a building that was built especially for this purpose. It has 3 bedrooms with western style beds; basic furniture and electricity.
- There is no running water at Volta Home but volunteers have their own toilet and shower block which is similar to that used by most families in this area.

When you are decided:

- Email info@volthome.org and give details of your planned dates for volunteering at the orphanage:
- Feel free to ask any questions or request the contact email address of a previous volunteer.
- You will then be directed to leave a message for Pastor Annabi on isaac.mawuena@yahoo.com giving him details of your plans; date of arrival and consent to pay the accommodation fees by calculating according to the costs given here

To be better Prepared:

- Check through the website thoroughly and read the blogs for a better understanding of the orphanage.
- Download the "cultural advice" blurb via a prompt and read it carefully
- Google for information about Hohoe tourist attractions and plan to spend a few days on the Cape Coast before you leave Ghana.
- Consult your local medical practice about any necessary vaccinations (allow 3 weeks).
- Apply for your visitors visa at least 3 weeks before leaving.



If you speak English you will find travelling in Ghana is easy.

- It is quite simple to travel from Accra to Hohoe by bus and we suggest you make these arrangements after enjoying a night or two in Accra. The Lonely Planet offers the best advice re accommodation and transport in Western Africa, so we suggest you download the Ghana section from the internet before you travel.
- No airport tax is required in Ghana.
- Take a few US dollars with you as these will always be accepted and will get you by until you find an eftpos machine. Catch a city shuttle, or a taxi to Osu (a popular suburb) will cost less than \$5 but you must haggle! In Osu you will find a comfortable place to stay for less than \$40 per night.
- Buses leave regularly from the Tudu Lorry Station and take from 4 to 6 hours to get to Hohoe (you soon learn to be patient!) The cost of this trip is less than \$5

Once in Hohoe it is easy to find your way to the Volta Home. Ask directions to the local trotro bus heading for Ve-Deme junction. The fare will cost less than \$1. The orphanage is a short walk from the junction, and is sign-posted.

Things to pack - or to buy before you reach the orphanage:

- A sleeping bag and light sheet.
- Long sleeved shirts and trousers for protection from mosquitos in the evening
- Clothing: check www.weatherbase.com for seasonal weather temperatures.
- An appropriate plug adaptor for your electricity appliances
- Note that you cannot carry liquids of more than 100ml in the aircraft cabin, so we suggest you buy most of your supplies in Hohoe and travel very lightly on the plane.
- Gifts for the children can best be bought in Hohoe where they will be lifestyle related – see the volunteer comments on “Advice for Volunteers” for help in this regard.
- In Accra buy a \$2 SIM card and some pre-paid credit for your mobile
- In Accra buy a few newspapers for the teachers at Volta Home - they will be greatly appreciated!

When you arrive In Hohoe:

- We suggest you buy water; biscuits; disinfectant; soap; washing powder; toilet paper; a towel; a bucket; sun-block and extra mosquito repellent
- You can also visit the local internet café - there is no internet at Volta Home.
- The pharmacy in Hohoe will know how best to solve any health issues arising from living in this environment. They have all the regular over-the-counter medications.
- There is an eftpos machine at the Hohoe Barclays bank in Hohoe. Be sure to travel with a visa card as many other cards do not work well in West Africa.

Security

- After you have accounted for your accommodation expenses you will not need money at Volta Home. The Orphanage does not have security or locks and is open to the community, so you must take this into account and take responsibility for your possessions.

Finally: Make a note to ring Pastor Annabi “Father” when you land in Accra (020900 6621) and tell him clearly when you plan to arrive at Volta Home. The children will be waiting to welcome you !

Bon Voyage!!

This special experience will bring you many beautiful friendships.