



Sønderskovhjemmet

Activities: Sønderskovhjemmet deals with alcohol and drug abusers as well as other social excluded people. The main idea is to keep the clients occupied in the community by helping at the farm and other practical tasks, while the treatment is processing. Sønderskovhjemmet is led and run as one great home, where everyone has responsibility in the community. They have social gatherings in the afternoon and evenings as in a real home. They go on journeys, to cultural events, sports and picnics as you do in a family.

Community: Sønderskovhjemmet is a beautiful big farm in the countryside near the sea in the southern part of Denmark. Sønderskovhjemmet is situated in the rural village Toreby near the town of Nykøbing Falster. Toreby has bus connections and within 20 minutes it is possible to go to Nykøbing Falster, where several sports and other spare time activities and facilities are offered.

Motivations: Sønderskovhjemmet has for many years had Danish volunteers from the Diaconal Year to help at the farm, supporting and communicating with the clients with their activities and making daily life something special. It is a great hope to be able to host foreign volunteers, who would be an intercultural experience of great value for the staff as well as for the clients. Experience from Sønderskovhjemmet's cooperation farms shows, that the clients actually seem to enjoy the challenge of speaking English/or German to the foreign volunteer and making the volunteer feel at home. They are interested in other foreign countries, and a foreign volunteer is adding a new dimension to their daily life.

Objectives: The project of "Sønderskovhjemmet" wants to contribute to the local area with a Centre of Treatment of Alcohol Abusers. The project is run by an organisation, which is already part of The Diaconal Year in Denmark.

Means: The tasks of helping and serving other people, the counselling by professionals and the three common courses gives the young volunteer the possibility of developing as a person.

Selection: The volunteer must be accustomed to live in the country side or willing to adjust to the situation in a village at the country side. The volunteer needs to be 18-30 years old and be a mature youngster. It is preferable that the volunteer is interested in sports and cultural events. The volunteer needs to have genuinely taken the decision to be a volunteer, having decided to try life in another culture - to try a life, where you think of others, where you work together in a team. The volunteer has to be rather independent and healthy to body and mind. The volunteer must know and accept that The Diaconal Year is based on the values of Christianity and values man from a holistic point of view.

Tasks: The local project covers a vast area of activities, as the house has around 40 clients. The volunteer takes part in the many different tasks in the whole institution and choose areas of efforts according to his/her own interests: Office, agriculture, animal care, laundry or kitchen. The tasks of the staff/volunteers are conducted alongside with the clients. The staff and the volunteers will build a team that plan, leads and carry out the different projects.

-production of items for a nearby factory, orders of putting together calendars, finishing other printed matters, netting baskets etc. The staff and the volunteers will have the responsibility that the order is correctly delivered. It might also be looking after the small agricultural areas and harvesting vegetables for using in the big household. In joining these tasks the volunteer will get in good contact with the clients at their own level. The volunteer takes part in the job of making Sønderskovhjemmet a nice home for the clients during their cure.

The volunteer will work and eat together with the clients and will cooperate with many different groups of the staff. The volunteer will have a special responsibility of running the kiosk at the institution, having the responsibility of shopping, filling the store and the automats. The volunteer will have responsibility of planning and running special common and cultural events with the clients. The volunteer is encouraged to take any initiative arranging and carrying out afternoon and evening-activities out of the house together with the clients.

Going to billiard, bowling, racer-driving, cinema, badminton, concerts or whatever they wish and decide. Through this the volunteer will grow as a person and come to know more about her/him, about working in a team, about meeting people with problems in general and understand social structures. A day for a volunteer may look like this: - breakfast together with the clients - helping a newcomer by furnishing and decorating his room - harvesting vegetables of the farm for use in the kitchen with the clients - feeding the animals of the farm - lunch with the clients - taking responsibility of some orders in the production workshops - go shopping for the shop of the institution - go for leisure-time-events together with the clients - having evening meal together with the clients.