

# Asociación "La Casa del Sol"

## Project environment

### PROFILE OF THE ORGANISATION

All activities have the aim of promoting the development of the Waldorf pedagogy in the island of Gran Canaria.

The philosophy of this pedagogy is based on the fact that the social development depends on the individual development of any person to assume self-determination and social responsibility. For this reason, our pedagogical work is based on respect and development of individual capacities of each person within the social environment of the school and its location.

### LOCAL COMMUNITY

**Arucas** is a town with a little over 20,000 inhabitants located at a 15- minute drive to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, capital of the island. It, therefore, has the advantages of big cities, but not its disadvantages. The municipality counts with coast and inland, and a nice, old town. The past couple of years, Arucas is trying to become a city with its own entity according to the standards of quality of life of the present time. The local government promotes an active and varied cultural offer through public artistic schools. These offer a large variety of workshops and courses: dances, traditional music, theatre, music, singing, etc. The participation of private entities concerned with the cultural life of the town is also important: they promote and support cultural activities such as exhibitions, music concerts, theatre, talks, conferences,...

The infant school and headquarters of the organisation are located 1 km. away from the town. There is a bus every 30 minutes with a stop near the school.

The organisation has a rented flat to accommodate volunteers, in the centre of Arucas, with all social bodies nearby (health centre, City Hall, supermarkets, library,...). The rules and conditions in it correspond to those for the welfare and co-existence with the rest of the neighbours in the building.

### ACTIVITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Any activity dealing with the accompaniment to educator: preparing and carrying out the classes, from Monday to Friday, from 8 to 14 h.

- Accompany the educator welcoming the children in the morning
- Help preparing breakfast
- Help children in bathroom and changing their clothes
- Collaborate with the activities in the class and garden (free games) and tidying up after games
- Participate in breakfast with educator and pupils, and after that, cleaning and tidying up.
- Support with different artistic activities, as well as with walks and trips near the Kindergarten with teacher and pupils
- Participate in songs and activities in a circle

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- Collaborate with story-telling and in farewell of children
- Support teacher keeping things in order and daily cleaning
- Participate in the preparation, celebration and collecting of Christmas Bazaar with teachers and parents, as well as of other feasts.

He/she will also receive monthly training about Waldorf pedagogy, as well as Spanish language classes at the official language school.

**Free days:** holidays and weekends. We will enable contact of volunteer with organisations with leisure activities.

## **Main aims of the project:**

- Offer the young volunteer the chance of knowing and developing the own skills, out of the career world for him/her, getting to know more about him/herself and a greater autonomy.
- Provide the volunteer with basic training in Waldorf pedagogy through the collaboration with the educator, as well as the regular assistance to training activities organised by the organisation.
- Develop creativity of volunteer, both through class activities and handicraft courses we offer.
- Transmit the volunteer one of the basic concepts of work with children: becoming aware of their role as "model". As children learn mainly through imitation, it is very important that they are aware that any activity he/she may carry out is very important for the school. The idea is being always aware of the fact of being a good model for children to copy.
- Bring volunteers closer to nature in a rural environment. In the Waldorf pedagogy, there is an intense relation with the environment and the cycles of nature. This offers the possibility of developing a large respect for it.
- Know the Canarian culture: people, customs,...
- Learn our language, both through classes and direct contact with the people in the organisation.

**Role of volunteers:** they will support and collaborate with the class teachers.

Profile of the volunteer(s) and selection process:

## **PROFILE OF VOLUNTEER**

- Someone interested in children and a different pedagogy, Waldorf pedagogy, who likes rural environments. Basic Spanish language skills would be interesting, but not essential.
- It is essential that the volunteer declares real interest and enthusiasm to establish a daily and family relation with children aged between 3 and 6 years, as well as the wish of learning about the characteristics of this age.
- As this centre applies an alternative methodology, it would be interesting if the volunteer knew about the characteristics of a Waldorf children's school before starting the service.

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- Someone able to adapt to possible changes due to the activity and task dynamics of a Kindergarten.
- Feeling comfortable in the rural environment is convenient, as the school and place of accommodation are in the rural environment.
- Interest for artistic activities and handicrafts, as these are daily activities of teachers and pupils.

Motivation and EVS experience

## **MOTIVATION**

The school has 3 groups of children (1 of 3 year-olds and 2 of 3-6 year-olds. Each group works in a different class with a teacher and each volunteer would support the teachers.

The support of volunteers is a very enriching experience for children and volunteers.

Their presence provides new ideas, experiences and customs from other cultures. As they integrate, the exchange of contributions usually increases. The link with children and their family provides volunteers with a very valuable experience for their life. Thus, there is a mutual enrichment (organisation-volunteers).

We believe that it is very positive that children know and establish daily relations with volunteers to manage an education in values. This is a valuable example of solidarity and unselfish commitment for children.

The happiness, enthusiasm and natural willingness to work of volunteers are also an important experience for our students, as well as the fact of living with people from other cultures.

## **SERVICE AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS**

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- Learn our language, both through classes and direct contact with the people in the organisation.

## **Description of the organisation**

### **OBJECTIVES**

All activities have the aim of promoting the development of the Waldorf pedagogy, based in the knowledge of human beings and the world. Its approaches are based on the continuous study by teachers of the human nature, having a complete study plan mixing intellectual, artistic and practical activities.

### **REGULAR ACTIVITIES:**

- Educational work with groups of children aged between 3 and 6 years.
- Activities related with the management and administration of the centre.
- Parent's school: monthly educational meetings
- Promotion and diffusion activities of the school, in particular, and the Waldorf pedagogy and anthroposophy, in general (talks, open door days,...)
- Training offer for parents, teachers and people concerned about the Waldorf pedagogy.
- Artistic and handicraft workshops
- Extra-curricular activities for children aged between 7 and 12 years

To carry out all these activities, we need the joint participation of three permanent teachers, two complementary teacher, a secretary and cleaning and gardening staff. The rest of the activities are done by any person who wants to help to develop the aims of our organisation (parents, family, members, etc.).

Target group: children between 3 and 6 years, mainly, but also children aged between 7 and 12 years and adults (as responsible for the children).