

Be volunteer at "ASILO DEI VECCHI" San Germano Chisone Italy



The Waldensian Church (Chiesa Valdese) is an Italian protestant church; a very small religious minority in a country largely catholic. The majority of Waldensian people live, for historical reasons, in the Waldensians Valleys (Valli Valdesi), a corn of Piedmont (Nord West of Italy), near the border with France. They were persecuted and considered heretics. In the 1848 they obtained the political and civil rights

From that year to today the Waldensians made hospitals, retirement homes, disables homes, schools, orphanages, minor's communities, etc. Initially they were administered directly by local Churches and communities. Nowadays the majority of the Waldensian social structures are part of the Diaconia valdese.

In San Germano Chisone, in the Val Chisone, one of the Waldensian Valleys, there is the "Asilo dei vecchi" (literally the "Asylum of old people") a retiring structure for elderly people. It was the first diaconal organisation opened by the Waldensian church for the old people in 1893.

The Asilo has around 100 beds, divided in different groups. There are rooms, small living rooms, balconies, library, gym and a big garden. It is staffed with doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, animators, and personal assistants, as well as kitchen, cleaning, maintenance and administrative personnel. The volunteer will be actively involved in the weekly planning of the job, and according to his/her own personal interest and skills he/she will have the opportunities to propose her/his own activities.

The volunteers have an independent apartment 500 metres from Asilo, in San Germano Chisone, a small village (1700 inhabitants), 7 km from Pinerolo and 45 km from Turin. There are many bus connections with Pinerolo. There are young people living there, but in fact they go to Pinerolo to go to school, to go shopping, etc. The volunteers can also find an active church community if they wish.

Il Asilo has a steady and long-standing practice of accommodating young Italian volunteers (Italian Civil Service) and foreign volunteers (SVE/ESC).

The volunteers will be offered from the coordinating organisation of the project, Diaconia Valdese, a training cycle including the on-arrival training, a mid-term seminar and an evaluation seminar. During this seminar he/she will have the possibility to meet all the volunteers hosted by Diaconia Valdese. Furthermore, as foreseen from the ESC project, the volunteer will attend the seminar organised by the Italian National Agency.

The volunteers are young people between 18 and 30 years old. The pocket money will be 150/155 € a month (5,00 € a day). The volunteers will stay in a house with other 2/3 volunteers, from other countries. They will have a shared bedroom (with maximum one other volunteer) and they will share the common spaces (kitchen, living room, bathroom). The house is equipped with all necessary furniture (also towels and sheets for beds). The volunteers will receive a monthly sum every month for the food expenses. From the apartment it is possible to reach the placement on foot.

The volunteers are asked to pay their own travel ticket. They will be reimbursed at the end of the service upon the delivery of all original tickets and boarding passes of their journey. The travel budget is calculated according to different distance bands that can change from country to country.

For participants who need a visa, there is a budget of 180 € for each volunteer. The participants have to keep all the invoices and tickets to give proof of the expenses. The volunteers will be reimbursed for these expenses at their arrival in Italy.

The volunteers will have access to the Online Linguistic Support that will help them in learning the Italian language. Furthermore they will attend weekly Italian lessons organised by Diaconia Valdese.

The volunteers will be insured with Cigna insurance by their sending organisation.

The volunteers are expected to come at the beginning of October and start with the on-arrival seminar organised by Diaconia Valdese. The ESC will last 10 months. Some variations in the starting/ending dates are possible due to the Covid-19 situation.