

## Caritas WG Refugio

### What is Caritas WG Refugio?

WG is the short form of “Wohngemeinschaft”, which means flat-sharing community. The Caritas WG Refugio is located in Vienna and provides accommodation and care for 16 unaccompanied minor refugees in a surrounding that envisions being as much family like as possible. The boys and girls are between 14 and 18 years old and have all applied for asylum in Austria. Most of them have lost their parents in their country of origin or have been separated from them during their flight. The tasks of the multi-professional staff who take the role of the caretaker include:

- ✓ Provide a secure surrounding,
- ✓ Build supporting daily routines,
- ✓ Give orientation and guidance within the new culture,
- ✓ Help with the legal and administrative procedures,
- ✓ Find a school to acquire the language and plan their further education.

In addition, there is a focus on “creating a home” where e.g. birthdays are celebrated, leisure time activities are organized and somebody is always there to listen.

### Proposed activities

A major part of the volunteers’ involvement is to assist the staff and the teenagers with everyday practices. This could be (always in cooperation with the teenagers or other staff members):

- ✓ Everyday activities such as cooking meals, shopping for the daily necessities etc.
- ✓ Being part of the community
- ✓ Taking care of the individual needs of the teenagers, e.g. chatting about daily thoughts and worries, helping to get them around etc.

We also would encourage you to take an active role in organizing leisure time activities with the teenagers:

- ✓ Finding out about the different cultural celebrations (including those of the volunteer’s country of origin and Austria) and planning activities for the whole community together with the teenagers and the staff.
- ✓ Renovation or interior design projects, art projects.

- ✓ Exploring the outdoors such as swimming or taking a walk.
- ✓ If the language allows for it: the volunteer can also offer help with the homework.

After a while, when you are used to the working environment, have built up contact with the teenager and acquired language skills, it is also possible that you will help the inhabitants with necessary medical, legal, educational etc. appointments always under supervision of the professional staff.

Your main focus time will be the afternoons, when the teenagers have finished school for the day. You will work 30 hours per week, occasionally also on weekends. Volunteers are also entitled two days of holidays per month of voluntary service. On Tuesdays there are team meetings where you are invited to take part and you will also be accompanied by a personal mentor. A typical project day would look like this:

10:00 – 12:00 Daily grocery shopping for the inhabitants of the WG (together with civil servant)

12:00 – 14:00 Assisting youngsters with their homework

14:00 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:00 Visiting doctors or other appointments with young people of the WG

18:00 – 19:00 Leisure time activities, later possibility to run own small projects with young people of the WG

### **Recruitment process and profile of the volunteer**

You should have an interest in social work and in working with young people. Basic knowledge of English and/or German would be an advantage to enable basic communication with the staff and the teenagers. Even though it is not a prerequisite, it would be ideal if you are over 10 years of age in order to have a small age difference to the oldest inhabitants of the project. This helps to prevent role conflicts and makes the role identification easier for both the volunteer and the teenagers.

If you are interested, you just send a CV (curriculum vitae), a motivation letter and the full details of the responsible sending organisation to Grenzenlos. They will forward your papers to the hosting project (in our case to Caritas Refugio) where the selection will be made.

All available placements of Grenzenlos EVS projects are open to everyone (fulfilling the general EVS criteria). However, in the selection procedure a preference is shown for candidates with fewer opportunities (gender, background etc.). You will be informed about the outcome of recruitment process conforming to the set out applying deadlines (more: [Melange Website](#)).