

PREFER

Poverty reduction, Education and Family Empowerment in Rwanda

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION 2011

Good Morning,

Thanks for expressing an interest in PREFER's volunteer program. Here is some information you may find helpful.

My name is Cathy Emmerson and my husband, Uwayo Teste, and I will be your contacts in Rwanda. I am from Canada and have lived in Rwanda for 8 years.

I am the founder and director of PREFER and I network with a number of local government officials to provide quality volunteer opportunities for people like you.

There are a number of ways our program is assisting with health and education in our District.

In January 2007 we opened a preschool in Gashangiro, 4 kilometers from Ruhengeri. Our 2011 school year has 150 children, ranging in ages from 2 years to 6 years old, in attendance. We have 4 Rwandese teachers on staff but volunteers are very much needed and appreciated, sharing life skills and knowledge with both the students and teachers. We hold adult classes many afternoons offering the local population English lessons, traditional dance lessons and parenting/hygiene seminars.

We hold a small medical clinic on the school ground to treat all students and many of the neighbouring families. Ailments range from small cuts, skin fungus and infected ears to burns and more severe cases. Anyone with medical knowledge would find this work very rewarding.

Your help with these children will be invaluable. They come from extreme poverty and possess few life skills. To be acknowledged and heard gives them self confidence, to be educated opens doors they did not know existed.

If you would like a more structured environment, there are also teaching positions available at various primary and secondary schools in this district, as well as afternoon and evening tutorial classes needed. If you are interested in a district school please bring your diploma with you. Schools in Rwanda use English, Kinyarwanda and French, it is to the volunteer's advantage to speak French as well as English but not necessary.

PREFER has a home repair project for widows and teenage head of household. The family home is outfitted with new roof, windows and door as well as insulation. This project is seasonal because of our heavy rains.

Volunteers must be over 21 years of age unless accompanied by a parent/guardian.

A police clearance from your area must be received by PREFER before your arrival date. (First time volunteers only)

Here is some information regarding other aspects of your life in Rwanda.

- You will be provided with 3 meals per day. Meals consist of a variety of vegetables: potatoes, cabbage, beans, corn etc. Very little meat is eaten.
- One of the PREFER team will be at the airport to pick you up and transfer you to Ruhengeri where we are based. The Kigali airport is small; we will be waiting for you outside of customs, after you pick up your luggage, with a sign reading your name. **Your return to the airport for your flight home is your responsibility.**
- You will have a day or two to relax and get familiar with your surroundings at which time we will go through your orientation. We will show you where to change money, email family and friends, and purchase any personal needs.
- Ruhengeri is a good size village with many hotels and restaurants, 2 markets, an abundance of small variety kiosks and even a swimming pool. We are only 12 kms from Volcanoes National Park and gorillas. If you are interested in gorilla trekking let me know ASAP to ensure there is availability and I will get you booked.
- The residence is a brick home with electricity and running water (yes, hot water for showers). It is 3 blocks from town centre and 4 kms from the preschool. During your volunteer placement your weekends are free to do as you choose, either travel about and see other areas of Rwanda or stay home, relax and get caught up with your journal and emails.
- Rwanda is blessed with good government. Our current government, led by President Paul Kagame, holds education first and foremost. We have the best roads in central Africa, a government that is transparent and accountable to its population, plus, we enjoy the freedom of movement ensured by our government's security measures. The growth and positive changes I have witnessed since living here are amazing. It is an exciting time to visit Rwanda and be a part of this country's future.

PREFER Volunteer Program Fee 2011

2 weeks	\$ 600.00usd	
1 month	1000.00usd	all prices quoted in US dollar
2 months	1700.00usd	
3 months	2500.00usd	

These fees include:

Administrative charge

Project donation

Airport pick up/ transfers to project site (return to airport at your expense)

Meals and accommodation during placement

Transport to/from project each work day

Supervision

A deposit of 25% of your program fee must be received by PREFER by either bank transfer or Western Union 30 days before the starting date of your stay. All deposits are non-refundable.

My mobile number is 0788868065 (if you call from outside Rwanda it is +250-78886-8065)

My email is: povertyreductionrwanda@yahoo.com

My mailing address is BP37, Ruhengeri, Rwanda

If you have a mobile phone, bring it with you. It's easy and affordable to get a chip and activate it for use in Rwanda, also your laptop, there are restaurants with wifi available or you can hook up at the internet café.

Thanks for your interest in Rwanda and PREFER. E-mail me with your questions, comments and flight information at your convenience.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Cathy Emmerson
Ruhengeri, Rwanda