**VOLUNTEER IN UGANDA: TEACHING| HIV/AIDS PROGRAM| COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT| HEALTH CARE| CONSTRUCTION| STREET-CHILDREN| REHAB CENTRE**

**Program Dates:** This program runs all throughout the year (January to December).

**Program Orientation:** Program orientation will take place the second day of your arrival.

**Program Duration:** Volunteers can choose to volunteer for a period of 2 weeks to 6 months.

**Program fees:**

* 1 week- USD$85
* 2 weeks-USD$170
* 3 weeks- USD$255
* 4 weeks- USD$340

The program fees can be paid upon arrival or before departure for proper preparations of your placement.

**Program fees covers:**

* Pre-service (e.g. culture, health talk, program orientation, training etc);
* 1 day sightseeing guide fee around Kampala
* Accommodation, Laundry and food during placement with a host family or volunteer house (3 meals a day);
* 24/7 Support

**The program fee excludes the following:**

* Airfare, Visa and Visa extension fee
* Transportation during weekends travel
* Personal travel and sightseeing (trekking, jungle safari etc);
* Internet access, telephone, drinks or other costs accrued during training and placement;
* Gifts to project staff and host family, if you wish to buy any;
* Should you wish to spend more time in Uganda pre and post placement period, please remember to budget accordingly!
* Travel and medical insurances, immunization, health expenses;
* You will also need a weekly budget of up to US $50-100 to cater for all your other expenses.

**Additional Fees:** USD$ 45 Airport pickup for arrival paid upon arrival.

Volunteer work at Branches of Life International will require the volunteer to be utterly flexible and open-minded and to arrive with a positive attitude and willingness to jump in where needed. Many volunteer openings are combined positions, meaning that you will be asked to fulfill more than one position, depending on your abilities and schedule. All positions require English fluency.

**Volunteer Application:**

This application is for individuals only. If you would like to work at Branches of Life International with a group of people, please contact us for possibilities.

The application process is very simple, just email us your resume, skills, experience, age and references and reason why you would like to come and volunteer with us and for how long would you like to stay with us and which programs or projects you would like to be part of. This will provide speed for the application process and once we have received your application, we shall acknowledge it within 3days time.

Due to the isolated setting of the BOLI projects and the stress of volunteering internationally, it is important for us to know about an applicant’s ability and health prior to beginning service. This information allows us to make a well-based decision in the interest of the BOLI project and the applicant and helps us to support the volunteer during his or her service at BOLI. All information is kept confidential.

**Volunteer Program**

The volunteer program at Branches of Life International is full of opportunities. We invite people of all backgrounds to participate in the endeavor to create a life of dignity for street children, disadvantaged youth and orphaned children in Uganda where we serve. We open this invitation to people who have the desire to be of service to the BOLI community in Nansana and who have an open heart and mind.

For the volunteers, our program offers a wide range of experiences from unique friendships and life enriching cross-cultural encounters to work experience rarely available in the outside world. The idea of having volunteers here at BOLI is to support our staff members and to give additional attention to our children and youth projects.

Our volunteers have the opportunity to share their talents and knowledge while serving others. Often our volunteers are highly trained and skilled individuals whom BOLI otherwise could not afford or find in the places where our projects are located. Volunteers always bring fresh ideas and perspectives that help meet the challenges of our daily operations.

You will have the opportunity to try different roles and projects, dependent on your interests and skills. These volunteer opportunities do not require specialized skills (although these would be an advantage), and we accept volunteers for both short and long-term placements, all the year round. Volunteers certainly gain an amazing life experience from their participation in our placement program. On first arrival, most volunteers sample all the projects before selecting the tasks that suit them best.

You just have to let us know where you want to go and we will take you there and information is available for you. The type of work you are involved with will be dependent on your interests, abilities, level of experience as well as your comfort levels.

**What makes a good volunteer?**

The most effective volunteers come to BOLI with a positive life-loving attitude, a strong work ethic, flexibility, realism and a sense of humor. Typically, volunteers may arrive with the expectation that living conditions are more primitive than they are. However, they are often not aware of how hard they are expected to work.

We also seek candidates whose main motive is to help the children and be models. BOLI volunteers are not rebellious to rational authority, disrespectful or insensitive to the cultures where we work and are guests. Please remember, we accept volunteers only if we are convinced that they will be good for the children and youth we serve. We are not judging them as people, only as models for children especially those living in slums, streets and children centres who need to be prepared for their lives beyond BOLI support.

We have numerous openings for long-term volunteers throughout the year and short-term programs from 2 weeks. We are sometimes able to accommodate volunteer groups such as school and church or youth organizations for short-term volunteering as well.

If you are interested in helping Branches of Life International in your local community by fundraising for our programs, please contact our office to find out how you can become involved. There are always positions available for translators, special event staff and office support.

It is important for potential volunteers to understand that the culture in Uganda is quite different from what you are accustomed to. Volunteers should bring with them an easy-going, open-minded and relaxed attitude. Locals are curious, very friendly and social people. While BOLI will endeavor to maintain a daily routine, volunteers should understand that things move slowly in Africa (and indeed in rural communities). Relax and enjoy the slow pace. Remember that life in Africa is not as organized and predictable as life in developed countries. Although volunteer work can be very busy and active, at other times work is determined by many number of factors including weather, availability of resources, whether a relevant contact has turned up, cultural activities etc.

**Volunteer Requirements:**

**Length of Service**

Volunteers are asked to give a minimum of 2 weeks and may serve in a variety of positions, including street- children programs, nurses, youth mentors, therapists, teachers, gardeners, kitchen help, construction assists. Because of the difficulties that surround training, language and accommodations for short-term volunteers, most positions require a strict commitment to One month of service.

There are short-term (2-3 weeks) volunteer opportunities, summer projects may involve volunteers in teaching English, music, dance, athletics, and arts and crafts.

**Age**

Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and in good health.

**Language Requirements**

Volunteer placement in Uganda will depend a great deal a minimum knowledge in English and this also applies to our technical work and manual labor.

The children speak Luganda, while English is taught in the schools and all staff members speak English. At the Office, a minimal knowledge of English is needed to communicate with others and staff upon arrival. Luganda is not a difficult language and each volunteer is expected to study and learn some few words of it during the first week in Uganda. Most volunteers can learn enough Luganda in their first two weeks to communicate with the children and staff.

**Expenses**

Volunteers are expected to pay travel expenses to and from the country where volunteering, Accommodation, Transport from the Airport and food

**Medical Coverage**

Due to the fact that Branches of Life International is a small organization with very little resources we expect the volunteer to meet his or her medical coverage during their stay, but we recommend that volunteers call their public health service for any required shots or medical advice for living in Uganda.

**For more information Contact us:**

**E-mail**: [info@branchesoflifeintl.org](mailto:info@branchesoflifeintl.org)

**Tel**: +256-750-034613, Website: <http://www.branchesoflifeintl.org/>