

Volunta Team Internationale Freiwilligendienste Deutsches Rotes Kreuz in Hessen

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Job description for the „Volunteer Development Service“ at Maher
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Country:	India
Project Executing Organization/Website:	Maher www.maherashram.org
Place of Action:	Vadu Budruk, Pune.
World wards Partner Organization since:	2010
Qualification of Volunteers:	
Languages:	English

About the Organization:

Maher is an interfaith and caste-free organization providing shelter and care to destitute and battered women and children. Maher was founded in 1997 by Sr. Lucy Kurien and is located in Pune in Maharashtra, India and spread to surrounding rural villages and out side of Maharastra.

Currently Maher has 22 projects in which nearly 567 children and over 180 women are residents. The women come having been abused, oppressed, taken for granted and abandoned. Most of the children were in similar situations and come with their mothers, are orphaned, or come from unfit homes. Maher welcomes all people irrespective of religion or social status and values each of them equally. After women have been at Maher for some time, they are supported in reconciling with their families or re-entering society and finding self-reliance to care for themselves and their children. When this is impossible, the women may continue living and working at Maher. Maher reaches out to women and children from all over India.

Sometimes, when put through the trauma of abuse and harassment, damage is done to the mind that cannot be remedied with simple affection and care. In these cases medical and psychological treatment is needed. It was with this need in mind that Vatsalyadham, a home for mentally disturbed women was established in 2003. Currently there are 65 women living at Vatsalyadham.

In addition to its homes for women and children Maher also conducts extensive community service programs. One such program has had particular success. It involves a group of tribal people living in a very desolate part of rural India also near Pune. It is called Takarwasti, and the people living there are “untouchables,” the lowest members of the caste system. These people are extremely poor and Maher staff continues to struggle in transforming the lives of the tribal people at Takarwasti. Maher has provided a well for water, a mill to grind grain, livestock, houses, sanitation education and more. There is also a home Maher has constructed on the land where the local children and those from nearby villages live. They are lovingly cared for by Maher housemothers and attend local schools.

Maher’s goal is to not only to help the women and children who are victims of abuse and poverty, but to help solve the problem at its source. Maher’s other community outreach work includes kindergartens and day care centers for small children, adult education programs, implementation of community funded micro-loan programs, sanitization and superstition clarification seminars, counseling, transportation to school for poor children, study groups for children, job placement for men and women and good grains to the poor families and so on.

Location: Maher is situated in a village called Vadhu Budruk which is a drought-prone area of Shirur, about 35 km from Pune railway station.

Areas of duties of the volunteers:

Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach basic knowledge in computer, • Teaching them arts and crafts, • Teaching music ,dance, sports • Conducting games/ • Helping in their studies • Teach English
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in production Unit • Conduct Games •
Village level activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to Indian culture and willingness
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence • Writing articles/reports/news letters

We are keen on having the international volunteers work in Maher because we know that the whole world is rapidly transforming into a global village. The exposure which our children, women and staff will get through the interaction will be precious indeed.