

Call of the Children of the Himalayas Israel –Ladakh volunteer program

Background:

Leh, the largest city in Ladakh, is situated in the Himalayas at altitude of 3,500m. Many villages surround Leh, some of them remote and inaccessible by any motor vehicle. Ladakh is a desert with harsh weather conditions, with extreme temperatures ranging from -40c in the winter and +30c in the summer. Still, there are 260,000 people living in Ladakh. Most of them are Buddhists, but many are also Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. The Ladakh people are survivors, as well as very friendly, peaceful, and warm hearted.

The **Moravian Mission School** in Leh, established in 1887, is a private school for children of classes K1-year 10. City children, poor and rich, as well as children from remote poor villages attend the school. The principle, Rev. Elijah Gergan is an outstanding educational figure. Constantly caring about each child, as well as striving for academic excellence both for the children and the teachers. Although the school is mainly supported by Christian Missionaries, religion is not part of the school curricula.

The **Lingshed Area Hostel**, established by Lama Geshe Ngawang in 2002, is a home for 40-50 children, ages 5-18, who live in the remote villages in the Lingshed area in Ladakh. Currently, there is no road access to these villages. The children, therefore, visit their families only once a year, in the winter, by walking 4-5 days in extreme cold weather conditions. In the hostel, the kids attend school in the mornings and afternoons, and in the late afternoons and evenings they receive from local teachers and volunteers extra tutoring and help.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Help is needed in the Moravian Mission School and in the Lingshed Area Hostel, which are situated in Leh, Ladakh, North India. Volunteering in these places is an excellent opportunity to learn about life in this part of India, and to get close to the Ladakhi people, who respond with gratitude and human warmth.

Israeli citizens who have completed their army service, as well as university students, may apply to this program. Experience in special education, mathematics, and English, as well as experience with working with children is an advantage.

The volunteers must commit for a minimum of 5 days work. Priority will be given to volunteers who commit to longer periods. Basic accommodation and food will be arranged for by the school and hostel. It is also possible to be hosted by the children in their homes in the village.

Applications:

Must be sent in English to Dr. Irith Hartman (Irith.hartman@gmail.com), or to Rev. Elijah Gergan (esgergan@gmail.com), or to Mr. Siddharth Bose (sidharthbose@gmail.com). Please fill in the form below.

Any questions can be addressed to Irith Hartman by email. For urgent matters please phone Irith +919008455882 or Siddharth +919797794005

Application Form for Israel-Ladakh Volunteer Program

Full name:

Nationality and Passport No.:

Date and place of birth:

Home address and contact number:

Email:

Short biography: (please attach a separate page)

Experience of working with children, if any:

Dates that you would like to volunteer (minimum 5 days):

Special medical conditions:

Contact person in case of emergency:

Please write an essay of 200-300 words describing yourself, and how you can contribute to the program. (It is possible to write in Hebrew). Your contribution can be academic or non-academic such as, sports, art, music, or any hobby you may have.