

Italy Family Support Quests Project Information

Project #1: VILLA VILLACOLLE

LOCATION

City: Villa VillaColle is in Castiglione Chiavarese (GE) 15 km from sestri levante (GE)

Region: Liguria

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Villa Villacolle is a house where lives a family that hosts small children (zero to five years old) abandoned by their families.

This is a unprofessional Casa Famiglia, on a voluntary basis. We are working on opening an association, but right now there is only a family to manage the project. We are both educators with a long experience as social workers and we have two teenage sons.

We live out in the countryside, our life style is very simple, we like to grow our own food, to cut and collect the wood in the forest for the winter. We would like to learn how to leave a small foot print in our planet. We have a small farm with honey bees, a vegetable garden, some fruit trees and many chestnuts. We are vegetarian. We would like to host people that understand our choices and that can help us to put them into practice.

Aims of the project:

The idea is that the best thing for children is to live in their families, but when this is not possible, another family can give them something close to what they need. We host children for short period (1 year maximum) while the social service help their family to solve their problems, or to find the long term solution for the kids.

Description of the tasks of the volunteer:

We look for volunteers that help in all the things that needs to be done in such a house:

- taking care of children (when there are children in our house)
- cleaning
- cooking
- taking care of the garden
- preparing wood for the winter
- feeding the horse
- helping with honey bees

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodation

The place is made of two houses in the same building: in one there is our home, in the other there are rooms for our guests that from time to time come and visit us and one room for the volunteers with 2 beds.



Food

The volunteers can have their meals with us, we are vegetarians, but they will also have a kitchen in the apartment, so sometimes they can also cook and eat their own food at home. Most of volunteers decide to have their meals with us.

Language Course

The government of Sestri Levante usually provides free language course for foreigners and immigrants from September up to the beginning of June.

Local Transportations

There are few buses that drive to the closest town (Varese Ligure), and others that go to the town where there is the train station (Sestri Levante).

Internet access

We do not have Wi-Fi connection, but we do have an internet key in our home.

Territory

Castiglione Chiavarese is a typical mountain village in the Petronio Valley, at the far eastern end of the province of Genoa, bordering on the province of La Spezia, named after the river that runs through it. The valley is very close to the coast but it is also formed by mountains that reach almost 1000 meters high.

Working hours and days off

We can arrange with the volunteers the best timetable for both us and them. We can be flexible, but usually we need help in the morning and in the afternoon, and sometimes in the evenings.

The volunteers could carry out the voluntary services from Monday to Friday, from 10:00 to 15:00 and then from 17.30 to 19.30. This timetable can change according to the needs of the children that we are hosting.

General Requirements

Since the village is small, calm and there are very few young people living here, we think it could be interesting to host two volunteers at the same time, and not only one. We look for volunteers who like a simple and quiet life and that want to join the daily life of an Italian family.



Project #2: CASA POLLICINO – Foster home

LOCATION

City: Imperia

Region: Liguria

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Our small “organization” is a foster home active since 1998, based in the outskirts of Imperia that hosts disadvantaged minors up to 10 years old . Most of our kids come from difficult familiar background and are assigned to our family by the Juvenile Court.

The kids live with us until they are given a definite family or are allowed to come back to their previous family.

They usually stay with us for some months or sometimes for a year. We can host maximum 5 minors. In addition to them, we have also our 2 kids who currently (2016) are 15 and 17 years old and an adopted young girl affected by a cognitive disability.

VOLUNTEERS TASKS

The volunteer will be helping us in looking after all our kids, helping them in doing their homework and in any extracurricular activities, if needed.

We ask the volunteer to support us when we drive them to school or to go with them to attend any other activities after school.

Last but not least, we wish the volunteer to help us in daily house cores (es. laying the table, supporting in cooking, hanging clothes, ironing them...). The volunteer will be part of our family and we wish she could participate in all aspect of our daily life.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Board and Lodging

In summer 2017 the volunteer will have a private room in our house and will have meals with us.

From winter 2017 the volunteer will be living in a small flat, 50 meters far from ours. She will have all meals with us. If she wishes she can cook her own meals at home.

Local Transportation

We are based in a “borgo” in the outskirts of Imepria, 15 minutes far from the centre by bus.

Internet Access

Wi-Fi is only available in the foster home, not in the volunteer’s apartment

Language Course

For Long Tern volunteers, there might be the possibility of attending an Italian language course (twice a week). It depends on when the volunteer arrive.



Volunteer Requirements

We are looking for a motivated non smoker girl (In our family there are 3 people suffering from asthma). The volunteer should be responsible and open –minded. We do not ask the volunteer to have any previous experience in working with kids, but we ask her to have a deep motivation in dealing with them.

Duration

We prefer to host volunteers for a minimum stay of 8 weeks.

We can host 1 volunteer at a time.

About Imperia

Imperia is a coastal city and comune in the region of Liguria, Italy. It is the capital of the province of Imperia, and historically it was capital of the Intemelio district of [Liguria](#). Mussolini created the city of Imperia on 21 October 1923 by combining Porto Maurizio and Oneglia and the surrounding village communes of Piani, CaramagnaLigure, Castelvecchio di Santa Maria Maggiore, Borgo Sant'Agata, Costa d'Oneglia, Poggi, Torrazza, Moltedo and Montegrazie.

Imperia is well known for the cultivation of flowers and olives, and is a popular summer destination for visitors.