

Voluntary service – also for refugees

With the sponsorship of the German Caritas Association (DCV) and its nationwide associated regional sponsors (autonomous organisational units), each year more than 5,000 volunteers, both young and old, can complete a federal volunteer service (BFD).

Volunteer service is a special form of civic engagement to support community services in welfare-focused organisations. In particular in the area of **refugee help** as well, we are experiencing an enormous amount of help and willingness to get involved from all generations, both from non-refugees and from refugees themselves. It is thus good news that the DCV is able to offer an additional 800 places for the "BFD pertaining to refugees".

The BFD is also open to people with experience of migration:

- for refugees from 18 years of age and up
- persons entitled to be granted asylum or persons under international protection pursuant to Directive 2011/95/EU, or asylum-seekers who are expected to achieve lawful and long-term residence status in Germany (not secure countries of origin)
- with a minimum of 3 months' stay in Germany
- with living arrangements established for the duration of the voluntary service
- with an employment permit from the responsible foreigners' registration office

The BFD ...

- consists of a practical task in a community charity and/or church organisation
- can be completed either full time or part time (more than 20 hours/week)
- is carried out over a period of 6 to max. 18 months
- and is educationally supported by 25 training days over a 12-month service (those aged 27 or older receive at least 12 training days)
- promotes the volunteers' ability to learn and their employability, gaining social competences and personal development.
- provides a daily structure in the voluntary service, greater knowledge of the German language and is an important opportunity to take part in something.

Benefits

- Volunteers' social security contributions are paid, and they receive monthly pocket money, subsistence allowance and, in some cases, free lodgings.
- The training days are free. Travel costs to the seminar are reimbursed.
- At the end of the volunteer service, the volunteers receive a qualifying certificate and a statement of service.

Contact

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