

House of Care

Childhood should be a time of innocence, trust and happiness – and this project strives to make it so.

The House of Care provides a secure and happy home for abandoned, neglected, disabled and orphaned children – many of whom are the innocent victims of poverty and the HIV & AIDS pandemic. They were the first Children's Home in the Western Cape to accept an HIV infected baby, and he is still living with them today.



Wherever possible, their aim is to stabilise and reunite these children with their families, through a family reunification programme, or to place them in loving foster care. Those that remain permanently with the project are mainly children with special needs and disabilities, such as severe Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, intellectual disability, Down Syndrome, deafness, blindness and epilepsy.

Children receive holistic care, ensuring that their emotional, medical, educational, nutritional and social needs are met to the fullest extent. Although the project receives a government subsidy for each child in their care, the amount falls far short of the actual cost of caring for little ones with special needs, and they rely on donations from caring individuals and companies to help make ends meet.

The project has various care facilities.

One of the cottages in Vredehoek is a safe house for children between the ages of 0- 4. Children are placed here until they are stabilised and reunited with their families. There are approximately 25 children in this facility, who are cared for by day & night carers.

The other cottage in Vredehoek is a home for special needs children. They are placed there on a permanent basis. There are 12 disabled girls between the ages of 5 – 18 years. These children are also cared for by day & night carers. Nazareth House has a full time occupational therapist, who works with the babies and toddlers in the morning and the older special needs children in the afternoon after school, encouraging each one to develop to their best potential.

There are also two **Community Cottages - one** in Observatory, for girls (Arnold cottage) and one in Mowbray for boys (Sydney cottage), headed by two house parents. With these cottages, the objective is to provide an environment as close to a normal family unit as possible, in which the children can grow up in similar circumstances to their peers in the community. The girls & boys live as small family units, sharing chores around the house and are comfortable enough to invite friends 'home'. They attend the local school and church, and participate in various community sporting and social activities. There is even a pet dog, living at the girls' cottage who is everyone's favourite!



Project dates	Volunteers start on a Monday.
Dates closed	n/a
Country	South Africa
State/ Province	Western Cape
Closest town / city	Cape Town
Details	<p>On the campus in Vredehoek, volunteers working with the babies and toddlers or special needs children will work between 08h30 – 16h30.</p> <p>Volunteers working with children at the community cottages will be able to get involved with them from 15h00 in the afternoon, as the children attend school during the day.</p>
Application subject to	Vacancies and availability of volunteer positions.
CV/ resume needed?	Yes
Police clearance certificate	Yes
Minimum age	18 and older (23yrs for Community cottages with girls; 18 – 25 yrs for Community cottages with boys).
Project highlights	Volunteers will help to create safe environment for the children to stay in.
Your role	<p>At Vredehoek campus, you would be expected to feed the babies, assist the toddlers in the morning with arts, crafts and playtime activities, assist with feeding babies and toddlers at lunchtime, and with a snack after school, assist the Occupational Therapist with the special needs children in the afternoon.</p> <p>Children’s assistant (Vredehoek): 08:30 – 16:30 Monday to Friday Mornings: Assist staff with toddlers. Duties include but are not limited to: arts & crafts, reading, playing, singing and dancing and other help as needed. Afternoons: Assist staff with feed babies if and when necessary. Assist staff with disabled children who have returned home from school and work with toddlers again.</p> <p>Volunteers at the boys’ community cottage would need to assist with homework and also to ‘play’ with the boys and take them regularly to the park to play soccer. The girls at the community cottage need someone who is able to assist with homework and generally engage in ‘girlie’ type talk and activities.</p> <p>Community Cottage assistant (Mowbray or Observatory): 15:00 – 18:00 Monday to Friday and possibly ad hoc over weekends Assist children with homework, play games like soccer (boys) or skipping games (girls); general chatting and building friendships with and support for these children. The housemother will advise as to what you should concentrate on for each day or week. Many of these children are low-functioning and therefore struggle with school work.</p>
Minimum duration	8 – 12 weeks
Special skills required	Some experience working with children is preferable, but not essential.
Language skills required	Good understanding of English.

Accommodation	<p>Not included. All Good Hope Studies accommodation options are available. We recommend that students book either homestay accommodation or the student residence when enrolling for this project.</p> <p>Homestay –You may book a single or double room and your family will supply you with breakfast and dinner. Travel distance is between 20-40 minutes to Vredehoek. In the southern suburbs, all host-families stay in private houses with gardens, while in the city centre most stay in apartments.</p> <p>Student Residence –Our Student Residence is conveniently located between Newlands and the City Centre in the suburb of Observatory. The residence offers self-catering with a fully equipped kitchen with a stove, a fridge, a microwave and a toaster. The MetroRail station is only a two-minute walk away. From there it is only four stations to the City Centre station with a ± 20 minute walk to Vredehoek. Volunteers can conveniently walk (five minutes) to the community cottage in Observatory or take a train to Mowbray, which is one station away.</p> <p>Student House - From Newlands station volunteers will have to travel seven stations into town, City Centre station, with a ± 20 minute walk to Vredehoek. The house offers self catering with a fully equipped kitchen with a stove, a fridge, a microwave and a toaster.</p>
Meals	Not included.
Local transport	Not included. Depending on the distance between the accommodation and the project, daily transport can be by MetroRail, bicycle, rented car or private transfer. Costs range from € 5 / US\$ 6.50 (MetroRail) to € 110 / US\$ 140 (private transfer) per week.
What to bring?	Camera, toiletries, any medication, warm clothes if winter, pair of slippers to keep your feet warm, sun screen if summer (despite the heat it can still get rather cold in the evenings so make sure you still bring a couple of jumpers), rain jacket, adaptors, mobile phone, food, spending money, towel, household cleaning products, i.e. washing powder. All these goods and anything else can be bought at local supermarkets in South Africa.
Optional Tours	
Is the work dangerous?	n/a
Potential Health risks	HIV / AIDS