***Long Term Volunteering Programme at Corrymeela***

Corrymeela Ballycastle seeks to be an **open village** where encounter, truth telling and hospitality are expressed as we contemplate and live out what it means to embrace difference, heal divisions and enable reconciliation. Our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable society based on social justice, positive relationships and respect for diversity. The inter-faith Corrymeela Community strives to embody these values in every aspect of our lives. We are intentional about creating spaces to hear and share the difficult stories and conversations necessary on our way to the freedom of a shared future.

**From January to December each year and September to August each year, 6 volunteers will be recruited for each cycle to live and work onsite**. They will commit to living and working as part of the Community at the Ballycastle Centre and to share in the organisation's ethos. Volunteering with Corrymeela provides many opportunities for professional and personal development. Working alongside staff and Community members, volunteers are afforded the opportunity to communicate with and learn from all those who come through our doors. They may meet those who have experienced the 'Troubles' first hand, refugees, the dispossessed, the families of prisoners, church groups, young people and many others on the margins of our society. They will also form part of a lived community, providing constant opportunities for cross-cultural sharing with fellow volunteers and visiting guests from around the world.

Since 1965, volunteers have been at the heart of Corrymeela and involved in every aspect of our activities. Volunteer experience could include hosting groups, planning activities relating to peace and reconciliation, preparing and serving meals, leading discussions and worship, housekeeping, giving tours of the Centre, administrative tasks, and much, much more. More specifically, Long Term Volunteers are part of a team which throughout the year is involved with all tasks of welcoming and facilitating groups which build upon their interests, skills, and the needs of the Corrymeela Community.

In addition to the in-service experience gained during the volunteer’s daily work, Corrymeela provides a year-long training curriculum to promote the development of new skills and techniques for which the centre is reputable worldwide. Volunteer training will typically include:

* The Story of Corrymeela and its impact.
* Northern Irish history and present-day peacebuilding process.
* Talk and Tour of Northern Irish points of interest.
* Models of peacebuilding, forgiveness education, reconciliation, and mediation.
* Group hosting strategies to create a safe space for dialogue.
* Planning and design of day and residential programmes at the centre.
* Experiential learning activities using art, media, adventure, faith, and encounter activities as a medium to promote reflection and discussion.
* Group work games and facilitation techniques to engage and enhance programme participants.
* Special needs support and first aid.
* Stages of group development.
* Learning styles and types of intelligence.
* Team role and conflict style analysis.
* Goal setting and life skills.

Training builds throughout the long term volunteer programme beginning with an induction at each cycle and continuing throughout the year during half or full-day workshops every Monday. Volunteer progress and learning is captured in an initial skills and needs assessment, quarterly monitoring, and a final review of one’s development over the year. Skills gained through volunteer service at Corrymeela can be strategically applied in a variety of future vocations such as youth work, teaching, community organising, conflict resolution, ministry, outreach, and academic research.

***Other Information***

**Volunteer Monthly Allowance, Food and Accommodation**

As a Long Term Volunteer you will receive a monthly allowance of £120. This will be paid directly into your bank account on or before the 26th day of each month. We will facilitate volunteers in setting up bank accounts at the Ulster Bank in Ballycastle during their first week here as part of induction. Accommodation for volunteers is provided on-site in the Coventry Building. Long Term Volunteers will share a bedroom with 1 other volunteer (except in exceptional circumstances) and will also share bathroom facilities. Long Term Volunteers may be allocated a room in any of the bedroom wings of Coventry. The Coventry building also contains shared facilities, namely a kitchen, dining area, TV lounge, computer suite, training room, and telephone room.

**Medical Care**

Volunteers will be able to register with the local GP (doctor) at the Ballycastle Medical Centre during their first week here. Corrymeela will assist with this procedure and will encourage volunteers to remain in good health throughout the year. As part of the visa process volunteer must pay a compulsory fee of £200 to register with the NHS (National Health Service).

##### Days On – Days Off

Corrymeela expects you to be a full-time volunteer. The nature of the activities at Corrymeela is such that being involved in the life of groups at the centre means undertaking long and irregular hours. It is not unusual for volunteers to be on duty from early in the morning until late at night. It therefore important that volunteers make good use of their time off. Volunteers are encouraged to spend time away from the centre during off-time and to use the host families allocated for rest and respite. Volunteers are encouraged not to engage in work during off time under normal circumstances. This includes part-time work or volunteering with other organisations.

Long Term Volunteers can expect to have an average 2 days off each week. You will also have two weeks off during December (if you are in the September to August cycle of volunteers) when the centre closes and 15 other floating days throughout the year. Days off should be agreed in advance with the Volunteer Programme Manager.

***How do I apply and what is the process?***

**Contact:** Aileen Farrell (Volunteer Programme Manager)

Or Emily Graber (Volunteering Office Assistant)

**Email:** [volunteering@corrymeela.org](mailto:volunteering@corrymeela.org) (this email will initially be delivered to the volunteering office assistant.

**Website:** [www.corrymeela.org](http://www.corrymeela.org)

**Phone:**  0044 - 28- 207-**61724** (or **62626**)

***Timeframes for applying:*** *check website nearer time for actual dates*

**Deadline for applications for January intake:** End of August

**Shortlisting for January intake:** Early September

**Interviews via Skype for January intake:** Mid-September

**Offers to candidates for January intake:** End September

**Deadline for applying for a visa for January intake:** Early October

**Deadline for applications for September intake:** End of April

**Shortlisting for September intake:** Early May

**Interviews via Skype for September intake:** Mid- May

**Offers to candidates for September intake:** End May

**Deadline for applying for a visa for September intake:** Early June