**Questionnaire FOR EVS-PROJECT**

**YOUTH CENTRE ‘T WASDOM (DOMINICAN MONASTERY), Zwolle**

Thank you for your interest in taking part in the EVS project at youth centre ‘t WasdoM in Zwolle, the Netherlands! The youth centre is part of the Dominican Monastery, a community of various congregations of Dominican (a Roman Catholic religious order) brothers and sisters. Through this intake form you can check if this project is right for and challenging to you and we will get a better impression of who you are and what you could contribute to the project.

Our present volunteers have helped out composing this form and have contributed questions and issues they think are relevant for your experience in Zwolle.

Quote by a former EVS volunteer:

*“It could happen that you work in a monastery, in a gay club and a kindergarten.”*

**Facts about the EVS project at youth centre ‘t WasdoM:**

History: 15 seasons of EVS projects are behind us

Duration: 10 months, from September until July.

Jobs: - 1 day per week host in the youth centre

- 2/3 days per week in organizations outside the monastery/youth centre

- 1 day a week working on projects in and for the youth centre

Living: You share an apartment (outside the monastery) with four other volunteers. You take care of the household together (cleaning, cooking, shopping).

Supervision: Two youth workers are your primary persons of reference and every Wednesday is a

day of reflection and training.

Language: Dutch and English. You’ll get six weeks Dutch language courses, three times a week,

in the first month and a half after arrival. After that you’ll get a language coach who coaches you two hours every week.

Break: Christmas break and one week optional in spring.

**Process of application and selection**

To ensure the application process runs smoothly, we ask you to provide us with the following **before April 8th** 2013:

* Your CV
* A narrative motivation letter
* The official EVS application form used by your national or sending organization
* The completed questionnaire you find below

***We do read all the motivation letters and questionnaires submitted to us carefully and your effort is very much appreciated! It really does help the selection process considerably.***

***Please add more lines below if those offered are insufficient.***

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| **General information about YOU!** | |
| **Name** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Date of birth** |  |
| **Female/male** |  |
| **Address**  **Street/postal code/city/country** |  |
| **Nationality** |  |
| **Phone** |  |
| **E-mail** |  |
| **Sending organisation** |  |
| **Contact Person** |  |

**Are you available from September 2012 until July 2013?**

If YES: please proceed this questionnaire

If NO: Sorry.. We only offer an EVS-project in this period of time.

**1. Working in our youth center: What’s the work in ‘t WasdoM like?**

As an EVS volunteer, your main task in the youth centre is to be host(ess) in the youth centre. During the week the youth centre is rented out for courses meetings or other types of activities. You are their host. You take care of the group’s needs regarding coffee/tea/lunch and such. You also make sure the spaces are clean and tidy. You share these tasks with the other four volunteers.

**Do you have any experience with such tasks? Please outline below. If not, please reflect how you would function as a host.**

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**What is the context of the project?**

Because this project takes place within a monastery, some affinity with religion is desirable. The Dominicans in the Netherlands have – as Dominicans everywhere – a tradition which combines study and contemplation with a keen concern for people and active engagement with justice issues at stake in society today. They do this from a particular Christian theological perspective that strives towards justice and liberation. The youth centre sees itself within in this tradition and aims to attempt to translate this to the (secular) world and concerns of young people today. We do not expect (of course) our international volunteers to share our vision and aims, but we do expect them to be able to function within this setting.

One of our former EVS volunteers said about the monastery:

*“I was very hesitant to go to a monastery for a year. I was raised Catholic and am now an atheist. But this is so different from what I grew up with.”*

**Do you have a religious background? If yes, can you share something about your upbringing and engagement in church, mosque, synagogue or otherwise? If not, could you reflect on how you see yourself functioning within this context?**

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**Projects in the youth centre**

The youth centre hosts groups from schools and churches for a couple of days. These groups share in the life of the religious community in the Monastery and have their own program. The youth centre offers programs and workshops to these groups reflecting on matters of identity, their worldview, community, justice – to name but a few. In general we use creative and evocative methods to tease young people out of their comfort zone and open them up to reflection and sharing.

**Do you have any experience with working with youth groups? If yes, what did you do? If no, can you see yourself doing so? How comfortable are you with working with groups of teenagers?**

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**Do you have any experience developing and leading workshops? If yes, can you outline what you have done in the past? If no, how does this challenge you?**

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**How do you function in a relatively unstructured environment? Are you able to work flexibly and take initiative? Can you give an example?**

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**Many projects outside the Monastery and the youth center involve people with learning disabilities, psychiatric issues or are somehow faced with finding themselves at the margins of society. Do you have experience with working with people with behavioural issues? If yes, share your experiences. If no, how do you feel about this?**

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**2. Your house in the middle of your street**

One of our former volunteers spoke the words: “*Living together is a project in the project.”*

The EVS volunteers really love the apartment they live in. Everyone has her/his own bed room and shares living room, bathroom, toilet and kitchen. You will be a small community within the city and monastery.

**What are your expectations of living together with people from other cultural and/or religious backgrounds?**

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**How did you find our project?**

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**3. Stuck in the middle with you**

*“We are like the four elements (fire, water, air and earth). It’s normal to have natural*

*disasters in the house once in a while. But we still function very well together even though we are so different from each other.”* - From one of our present volunteers.

**What kind of position do you take on in a group? Can you give an example?**

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**4. Just the way you are**

**Please describe your personality briefly considering your strong and weak points especially.**

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**5. Working 9 to 5**

*“In the beginning it might hard in the working places but it’s worth sticking to it*

*because it pays off in the end.”* – Present volunteer quote

**Imagine: Your first day of work and everyone there speaks Dutch. How do you handle this situation? Explain it in a few words.**

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**6. Bicycle, bicycle, bicycle – I want to ride my bicycle!**

*“At first it was very unusual for me to do everything by bike. But now I feel naked without it.”* – One present volunteer said

**You will be provided with a bike in Zwolle and that bike will be your means of transport.**

**Even when it’s snowing, hailing or just the daily dose of rain.**

**Are you up for that?**

YES

MAYBE   
NO

**7. New York, Rio, Zwolle**

*“Honestly, in the beginning it was very hard for me to feel home in Zwolle. I grew up in a big city and I was not used to a more “provincial life”. It took me a while to get used to it but now I can see the charm Zwolle has.”* – Another present volunteer stated.

**How do you think you will deal with the fact that Zwolle is not as lively as e.g. Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht? Or, contrarily, if you are from a small town, is urban enough to come with a certain level of individualism?**

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**Especially in the first months it can be difficult to build up a social life outside of the house.**

**How do you take initiative to change that?**

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**8. It’s not a about the money, money, money…**

*“At the end of the month I’m basically broke.”* – One of the four anonymous volunteers said.

The EVS project provides you with shared household money which you are obligated to use for buying food and things for the household. So now you can tell your parents you won’t starve for 10 months. You will also receive little pocket money, money for yourself, and with that money you can do whatever you want.

**What is your take on money? Are you a saver or a big spender?**

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**9. Come fly with me**

*“The reality here was so different than I expected it to be!”* – present volunteer

**What are your expectations? What skills would you like to develop in the time you’re staying here?**

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**10. You better think (think think), let your mind go, let yourself be free!**

**Would you like to ask or add something?**

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**11. Text us maybe?**

**Our present volunteers (from Germany, Spain, Italy and Austria) would be happy to talk to you if you want to know more about their experience here. If you want to get in touch – via Skype, Facebook or mail – leave your contact below and they will get in touch!**

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