

**Area of Volunteer Assistance:** Education

**Title:** Complementary Student Program Mentor

**Location:** Phalombe, Malawi, Africa

**Age Requirement:** College student or professional

**Mission:** To empower local community members and students outside of the classroom.

**Need:** The student to teacher ratio in Phalombe is very high. One teacher may teach over 100 students in a primary school classroom. Unfortunately, many teachers do not have the time to assign and grade homework. Therefore, many students are not prepared for end-of-year exams.

**Purpose:** The purpose of a Complementary Student Program Mentor is to provide support for EKARI's Complementary Student Programs as well as to mentor students.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Tutoring Program: Observe morning classes and assist local teachers; assist students with assignments in the afternoon and evening
- Library Program: Review textbooks with students and tutor as needed
- 3 Meals a Day Program: Assist students to understand importance of proper nutrition
- University Coaching Program: Observe classes and assist local teachers; assist students with assignments
- Computer Program: Assist local teachers and/or run the program based on skills; assist students with assignments
- Health Education & HIV/AIDS Awareness Program: Assist local teachers and nurses; assist students with assignments
- Educational Field Trip Program: Chaperone field trip
- Understand student goals and provide guidance regarding students' future career choices
- Connect students with local professionals who can provide further career choice guidance
- If have applicable skills conduct student leadership, health education, etc. seminars

**Report to:** Malawi In-Country Director

**Qualifications:**

- Professional or volunteer teaching experience (highly preferred, but not required)
- Ability to follow instruction
- Strong organizational abilities
- Ability to work well with others and incorporate suggestions
- Desire to approach challenges strategically and creatively
- Interest in EKARI Foundation's mission and work

**Support:** Cultural sensitivity training for this position will be provided. Volunteer will meet with Malawi In-Country Director on a weekly basis or as needed to discuss volunteer role.

**Length of Appointment:** Minimum 3 months (An entire school year is ideal, but not required)

Why 3 months?

The EKARI Foundation believes that sustainable and lasting change occurs when local community members are empowered and supported to be change makers in their own communities. We believe that local community members have the potential to emerge from poverty through their own efforts and that our volunteer positions are designed for volunteers like you to come alongside communities, in humble service, to assist in harnessing that potential.

The EKARI Foundation further believes that handouts and short-term time commitments create dependency from local community members on outside support and can minimize the communities EKARI aims to serve by neglecting to account for the skill, talent, knowledge, and resources communities have to contribute. EKARI's approach is to encourage local community members to discover their potential and contribute to the development and success of their community, demonstrating that they have worth and something of value to share.

The time commitment that you pledge to as a volunteer for the EKARI Foundation sends a message to the local community that they are worth investing in; that you want to learn from them and empower them to be change makers in their community. The yield with this approach is sustainable change.

**Time Commitment:** Four to five days a week for six to eight hours a day depending on need. Volunteers are allowed and encouraged to take three-day weekends or one week-long holiday to tour and experience Malawi as time allows.

**Documentation Requirements:** Volunteer must complete a criminal background check or provide a police clearance certificate from country of origin, sign child protection policy, and sign waiver of release and liability.

**Post Volunteer Expectations:** The EKARI Foundation expects that our volunteers will be our biggest advocates within their communities subsequent to their volunteer experience. To spread awareness, volunteers are required to support EKARI through social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, or by blogging. Financial contributions from volunteers or from their communities are highly appreciated.

We also highly encourage volunteers to blog or post to social media outlets like Facebook and/or Twitter during their volunteer experience.