

Area of Volunteer Assistance: Education

Title: Teaching Assistant/Student Mentor

Location: Phalombe, Malawi, Africa

Age Requirement: College student or professional

Mission: To empower and learn from teachers and students in 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 Teaching Assistant/Student Mentor is to provide much needed support to over-worked teachers as well as to tutor and mentor students.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist teachers with daily classroom activities
- Tutor students during class breaks and after class
- Understand student goals and provide guidance regarding students' future career choices
- Connect students with local professionals who can provide further career choice guidance
- Conduct student leadership, health education, etc. seminars if have applicable skills
- Observe classroom activities and provide report as to how EKARI can improve support to students within the classroom

Report to: Malawi In-Country Director

Qualifications:

- Professional or volunteer teaching experience
- 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 would be ideal)

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: Classroom hours plus after school tutoring, five days a week. Volunteers are allowed and encouraged to take three-day weekends and a one week-long holiday to tour and experience Malawi as the school schedule 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.