



## The Joe Homan Charity

# ... bringing Joy and Hope to Children

### INFORMATION FOR OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS

To work as a Volunteer with us in India is a unique opportunity to see inside another culture, to work with children and young people, and to see an NGO (non-governmental organisation) in operation. Not only will you be helping some of the poorest children in the world to have the chance of an education and opportunity in life, you too will find the experience rewarding, enriching, and enjoyable.

The Joe Homan Charity believes it is essential to be accountable for all the money donated. Volunteers are therefore invaluable as independent witnesses, who can actually see at first hand the work being done, and an important part of their work is the writing of regular reports that go out to sponsors and donors.

#### Qualifications

To volunteer for us in India, we prefer people to be of college-leaving age or over (previous work experience can be valuable). Although younger people have volunteered, life is not easy there and a mature approach is needed.

Volunteers always travel around the region with an interpreter and talk to many people involved in the projects before writing their reports. They also take photographs, which may be sent to the sponsors with their reports.

#### Life in India

While the work for the Charity is quite straight forward, some people find it difficult to cope with conditions in India. There is much poverty and squalor. Simple things like booking train tickets and sending parcels require unimaginable layers of bureaucracy, so one needs to be very patient.

We strongly advise that if possible volunteers travel a little in India before coming to work with the Charity. There is much to see in Tamil Nadu alone, and it is an easier way to get used to the pace of life in India. For example, a trip from Chennai to Mahabalipuram, Pondicherry, Trichy and Madurai (which is the nearest big city to the projects) would be an enjoyable introduction to the country, and the hill-station of Kodaikanal is within easy visiting distance of the Charity's projects.

#### Living and Working Conditions

There is clean safe guest accommodation with Boys Town Society in Tirumangalam and also attached to our Charity office in Dindigul. Volunteers are asked to make a contribution towards accommodation overheads while working with the Charity.

Volunteers will have tasks allocated that will involve visiting projects and meeting the children, particularly at weekends and evenings when they are not at school. They may appreciate your help with homework, will no doubt want to practise their English, and it is also a chance to use any skills of your own (music, sewing, sports, etc, etc) which the youngsters will enthusiastically share with you.

There will be plenty of opportunity outside of your working hours to enjoy and explore the culture of India. We do actively encourage volunteers to explore the local area and it maybe more convenient to do this during the middle of the week. Please remember that while our local staff will always accompany you on project visits, they too need to take some time off, so don't expect to work 7 days a week.

#### The need to give a good impression

It is important to remember that Indian culture is very different from the west, and people are much poorer. We are concerned that volunteers must give the Charity a good name in the region, and they must also consider themselves representatives of western culture to people who rarely meet westerners.





For this reason, volunteers must dress conservatively and tidily. Normal wear is shorts or long trousers with open neck shirts or T-shirts for men. Women should dress modestly with long skirts or trousers, and tops with a high neck or a shawl to cover the shoulders. Cotton clothes are very cheap to buy or have tailored locally. Sandals are the best footwear. Although conditions can be hot, remember the hill country is cool and evenings can be cold in the winter months.

While working with the Charity, volunteers must behave responsibly. Indian attitudes to alcohol are very conservative. Please note that, in India, possession of illegal drugs carries mandatory sentence of 10 years.

The work with the Charity is interesting and rewarding for those who are enthusiastic about it, but if volunteers have any complaints about the work or the conditions, they must talk to the volunteer coordinator first. However basic the food or the conditions, it is luxurious compared with that experienced by most Indians.

### Personal Needs

A current passport, and India Visa\* and any necessary injections (please refer to your own GP for advice). Shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other personal requirements can be purchased locally.

\* Please ensure that your Visa application shows you as a 'Tourist' and not a Volunteer.

### Money

Credit/Debit card facilities are now readily available at ATM's in most towns.

### Air Travel

Generally, volunteers are required to pay for and book their own flights - we may be able to coordinate these if a number of people are going at the same time. We can suggest best routes depending on your itinerary.

### Transport

Local and long distance buses are very frequent and cheap. Booking long distance on trains needs to be done at least one month in advance. Local travel may be as pillion on small motorcycles – helmets are available on request.

### Insurance

Please note that all volunteers should arrange adequate insurance to cover the period when they are working for us, including travel and personal injury insurance cover. See *application form*.

### Communications

Phone, internet and email services are available locally, and are easy and cheap.

### Application and Interview

Volunteers are all requested to fill out an application form and will normally be expected to attend an interview. We may carry out further screening checks.

Once accepted for volunteer work with The Joe Homan Charity, you will receive full briefing in the UK and on arrival with the projects overseas.

### Recommended

Both the ROUGH GUIDE and the LONELY PLANET are good guides and recommended for anyone considering visiting India.

**PLEASE DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE,  
OR TELEPHONE OUR PETERBOROUGH OFFICE.**



**Enjoy meeting the children - their lovely smiles will win your heart**

The Joe Homan Charity  
PO Box 54, Peterborough, PE4 6JP, England  
Tel: 01733 253416

Email: [jhct@btinternet.com](mailto:jhct@btinternet.com)  
[www.ioehomam.org.uk](http://www.ioehomam.org.uk)  
Charity Ref No 1006060



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**APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES**

SURNAME		Please Attach  A Recent  Passport Size  Photograph
FIRST NAMES		
TITLE		
ADDRESS		
TEL HOME	EMAIL	
TEL BUSINESS	TEL MOBILE	
DATE OF BIRTH		PLACE OF BIRTH
NATIONALITY		
DATE OF PROPOSED TRAVEL IN INDIA From		To
DATES AVAILABLE (for voluntary work with The Joe Homan Charity) From		To
<b>MEDICAL HISTORY</b> Please state, with dates, any serious illnesses, operations, allergies, or disabilities  Are you currently being treated by your doctor or taking any medication (brief details)		
DETAILS OF NEXT OF KIN (including contact telephone number)		
<b>DETAILS OF ANY COURT CONVICTIONS (under the rehabilitation of offenders act, spent convictions should not be included)</b>		
Dates	Offence	Sentence (inc suspended sentence)
Do you know anyone already / previously engaged by The Joe Homan Charity <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If 'yes' please state name		
<b>REFERENCES</b> We do require references. Please give the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees who can provide a personal reference (not relatives)		
Name		Name
Address		Address
Tel:		Tel:
Capacity Known		Capacity Known

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**EDUCATION & FURTHER STUDIES** Give details of subject /courses and any qualifications gained)

EDUCATION (if applicable)			
Dates	Name of School/College	Exams Taken (including grades)	Other Achievements

**OTHER TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS**

Dates	Establishment	Training / Qualifications

**EMPLOYMENT** Please give details of any work experience you may have

Dates	Employer	Position Held and Main Duties

**FURTHER INFORMATION** Please use the space below in support of your application. You may wish to include information such as the suitability of your interests, personal attributes, qualifications, etc.

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

What attracted you to working with The Joe Homan Charity ?

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

**Important – Insurance Cover Notice\***  
 The Joe Homan Charity does not provide you with any insurance cover for personal injury to you or your dependants if you decide to volunteer. In volunteering your services to The Joe Homan Charity you must voluntarily accept all the risks inherent in working in India and/or Thailand. You should agree that you and your personal representatives will indemnify and hold harmless The Joe Homan Charity against any claim or claims whether on your own account or from third parties, arising out of any accident or incident resulting in any loss or damage (including bodily injury and death) by signing the statement below.

I declare that the information given on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate, and complete. I confirm that I have read and understand the Insurance Cover Notice\*.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Joe Homan Charity, P O Box 54, Peterborough, PE4 6JP, England