

BVS/BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT FORM

Name of project/organization: Musicians without Borders

Address: Spoorstraat 38, 1815 BK Alkmaar, the Netherlands

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E-Mail or Web Site Address: www.musicianswithoutborders.org/
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BVSer's job title: communication/ development assistant

BVSer's immediate supervisor: Laura Hassler (director)

Description of project/organization:

Musicians without Borders uses music to build peace through self expression, personal empowerment and common experience. Drawing on professional experience to facilitate positive interactions between groups of people, we promote creative responses to conflict, contributing to a culture of peace.

Musicians without Borders (MwB) started during the Kosovo war in 1999, initiated by a community of professional and amateur musicians and supported by the international organization IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation). A broad, multi-cultural network of musicians in the Netherlands still forms the basis for the wide range of MwB activities and projects, almost always on a voluntary basis.

What began as a spontaneous movement of musicians has become a many-layered organization, consisting of an active, professional board, a program/artistic director, two salaried staff, several voluntary project leaders, a core of approximately 30 dedicated musicians who offer their time regularly as teachers, workshop leaders and performers, and a larger circle of musicians, music schools, ensembles and other supporters who support MwB with fund-raising actions, donations/ repair of musical instruments and financial contributions.

Brief description of your location/area,

Musicians without Borders' office is located in Alkmaar, the Netherlands. Alkmaar is a small city (pop. 90.000) with a beautiful old center. We're a 35 minute train ride north of Amsterdam. There's a big theater, an alternative theater/ film house, a movie theater with 5 (commercial) films at a time, 2 pop/rock music centers, a tango studio, a street market on Saturday. There's a jazz festival, a world music festival, a fantastic old church with a beautiful historic pipe organ. Oh yes, and a cheese market, the town's claim to fame. Although the residents avoid it, it brings thousands of tourists to the town every Friday in the spring and summer. Alkmaar is near the North Sea, about an hour on a bike, or 20 minutes in a bus, and there are beautiful dunes.

Anything else you think would be helpful and would attract prospective volunteers

- Part of MwB's work involves musical performances, both organized by MwB and as part of festivals, conferences, etc. There is a lot of music to enjoy.
- We are a small team, so volunteers can count on being introduced to, and involved in, the organization's program work.

Job description:

List specific duties the volunteer would be required to do.

- sharing in standard office tasks (answering telephone, filling orders (CDs, etc.), helping with mailings)
- helping with info stand at concerts and events (occasionally)

Optional or flexible duties

- grant writing
- fundraising
- writing for English version of website
- producing English-language PR materials

Training offered?

Dutch language

Minimum requirements or prerequisites:

E.g. education, skills, abilities, experience, physical requirements, gender, age, etc.
College education, good language skills (at least English, others are useful), writing ability, team worker.

Useful but not absolutely necessary:

Musical background

Housing for volunteer:

in community

in independent apartment

on project site

with family

other

Must the volunteer seek his/her own housing?