

HERITAGE FOR VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES (H4VPI)

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FIRM INFORMATION

Name and Address

Name of the firm:	Heritage for Voluntary Partnership Initiatives (H4VPI)	
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PROFILE

Heritage for Voluntary Partnership Initiatives (H4VPI) is a voluntary non-profit organization established with the sole aim of creating opportunities for the empowerment of the vulnerable in society and providing educational support to deprived children in rural communities in Northern Ghana. It largely depends on support in the form of cash and kind, from international volunteers, groups and individuals donations, who are touched by the need to contribute to empower vulnerable women and meeting the educational needs of deprived children in rural Ghana. It focuses primarily on rural communities deprived of basic social amenities. While receiving this support, the women and children are also empowered to learn about how to protect the environment in which they live. This, they do by embarking on tree planting in their communities.

Mission

To become essential in contributing to creating opportunities for deprived women and children.

Vision

To be the most desired, efficient and charitable organization to create socioeconomic opportunities for the vulnerable.

Core values

- ***Commitment***
We ensure that, relationships developed by us make a positive difference in the lives of the vulnerable.
- ***Collaboration***
We leverage a shared intellect through volunteerism, to meet the needs of the vulnerable in society.
- ***Charity***
We create a kind and lenient foundation for support systems through volunteerism.

Contact Person

Name: Paul Akanvariwen. Asianab

Designation: Director

Education: CMC, Ch.PA, M.Phil, M.A., B.A (Hons).

Area of Expertise: Human Resource Management, Organization Development, and Community Development

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What we do: H4VPI (We currently operate in two areas);

Basic Education Foundation Project (BEFoP)

H4VPI is a voluntary organization that focuses on the provision of educational needs to basic schools in northern Ghana. Its BEFoP is committed to supporting basic schools through voluntary support in kind and in cash, to among others, undertake the following;

- donating teaching and learning materials
- collaborating for voluntary teaching and mentoring
- internship support activities
- soliciting assistance to provide school equipment
- developing proposals to fund the construction of school infrastructure
- providing guidance and advisory support for pupils and teachers.

Volunteers who travel to northern Ghana are expected to support this project serving as teachers, mentors, counselors and donate in cash and kind to beneficiary schools.

Marginalized Women Empowerment Project (MWEP)

MWEP is a project initiative under H4VPI that undertakes various livelihood development projects to promote empowerment of the vulnerable. The project is a collaboration between H4VPI and the interested volunteers, who raise support and recommend volunteers, students and family, who wish to travel to Ghana to support the work of H4VPI with focus on the following project areas.

- Entrepreneurial training and capacity building for vulnerable women groups
- Providing livelihood schemes for vulnerable women groups
- Internship support activities
- Supporting Self-Help women projects
- Cross cultural and transformation learning

2. Who qualifies to volunteer and support:

- International students (individuals and groups)
- Researchers
- Tourists
- International development workers
- Missionaries
- Philanthropists
- International and local organizations working to support humanitarian development activities
- Other interested partners

3. What Volunteers get to know and benefit.

- Volunteers get to understand African culture and are exposed to a new cultural identity in the form of customs, traditions, festivals, among others.
- Student volunteers may also undertake field practical work to offer credits to international students who may wish to undertake a field study in Africa
- The programme provides safety and security for international participants while volunteering in any of the projects under H4VPI
- Volunteers are given an orientation on the cultural settings of northern Ghana and are provided with information about tourists sites in Ghana, and will have access to trained tour guides/buddies (when their services are needed)

4. How much to pay as volunteer.

H4VPI is non-profit organization and does **NOT** expect any payment before volunteering on our projects. Volunteers cater for their own expenses. However, staff of H4VPI makes adequate arrangements with interested volunteers on cost and duration of stay before Volunteers arrive. However, related cost elements may include,

- feeding,
- healthcare,
- accommodation,
- entertainment,
- transportation,
- sanitation
- Donation to H4VPI and other voluntary contributions.

Other living cost elements may be associated to specific activities volunteers want to undertake. Interested Volunteers should contact H4VPI for details of average daily living cost in Ghana before traveling.

5. What you need to know about a typical Ghanaian Home

Houses:

- Most Ghanaian houses, in the rural areas, are built of mud and thatch.
- In the peri-urban areas, buildings will be made of blocks/bricks with zinc roofs
- Most families live in a house with a private yard or sometimes in an apartment
- Most of the houses have a separate kitchen or a cooking area but food is eaten either in the living room or in the yard.
- You will probably share a bathroom with other members of the family

- You will have your own bed in a private room. You may want to have personal things to make your room more comfortable. Discuss with your host.
- Keep the keys to your room and ensure it is locked when you are out of the house or about to sleep.

Meals:

- At least two home cooked meals a day
- Expect someone will always offer to serve you food and wash the dishes (but you are allowed to join in the cooking and washing of dishes). Gender roles are still emphasized and men may not be allowed to cook or do dishes.
- You are free to prepare your own meal anyway.
- No specific time for meals (you may negotiate for specific meal times).
- Families might store your food items for you but beverages can be kept in your room if you don't eat with the family in the morning.

House chores (work):

- Your host family expects you to behave as a member of the family. Your host family will appreciate it if you offer to help with general chores, like;
 - Setting or cleaning the table
 - Washing dishes or tidying the kitchen
 - Tidying the bathroom after each use
 - Picking up your personal items from shared areas of the home and keep them in your bedroom
 - Cleaning up your own bedroom including dusting, changing the bedding, and doing your own laundry.
- If you have time or interest, you could also offer to help prepare a family meal
- Play with children but your host family will not expect you to baby-sit
- You may join the family in doing some manual labour in the yard, farms and business centers.
- You are free to wash your own cloths. Find out from your host family how to do this.

6. What are your tasks and responsibilities?

- You are encouraged to be involved in family and community daily life.
- You are **NOT** responsible for general care including feeding your host family. You may only support if you deem it necessary.
- Do you **NOT** give money and other material things to family and other people in the community when they ask for it (special needs will be treated differently).
- Fine out from H4VPI staff before giving out any form of support to a family or community.

7. Activities of Volunteers in the host communities

Volunteers are expected to undertake some activities(Act) while on projects of H4VPI. These activities depend on the duration of stay of a Volunteer.

Act I:

- i. Volunteer arrive in Tamale and picked up by H4VPI Staff
- ii. Stay in Tamale for some days for orientation by staff
- iii. Identify project of interest by Volunteer.
- iv. Traveling to project site (host community), settling in, introduction and familiarization with host family and community authorities.
- v. Familiarization tour of the community to establish boundaries, settlement patterns, building style/designs, available social amenities/facilities, and other physical structures of interest
- vi. Reporting of initial thoughts, observations, and any issues of experience to staff of H4VPI.

Act II

- vii. Setting up of working groups and daily schedules with volunteers
- viii. Introduction of what specific thing Volunteer wants to carry out
- ix. Learn the culture, traditional political system of the community and household setting, industries and resources
- x. Attending social and cultural gatherings at free time.
- xi. Lifestyle issues of the host family, language, recreational activities, and religion
- xii. Recording of any interesting observations for later discussions including seeking clarifications where necessary.

Act III:

- xiii. Visits to other places within the country, if possible (at the cost of the Volunteer)
- xiv. Attendance at any social occasion either of the host family or within the community
- xv. Compilation of photo and/or video albums, and few notes about the experience for discussion with the staff of H4VPI during a special debriefing/evaluation session after exit from the community

Act IV:

- xvi. Farewell visits to selected families/people in the community
- xvii. Special moments with the host family, including a shared meal or activity (to be sponsored by guest as a “thank you” to your host family).
- xviii. Departure from the community

Act V:

- xix. Travel back to H4VPI offices in Tamale.
- xx. Evaluation of community stay and project undertaken
- xxi. Farewell meeting/dinner with H4VPI Staff

Local Partners

With these local partners, International Volunteers can live and work with these among a host of others who are not directly linked to us but provide services for the safety and security of our volunteers.

- Tamale Institute for Cross Cultural Studies (TICCS)
- Tamale Institute for Languages and Trans-formative Studies (TILTS)
- Nazareth Home for God's Children (Orphanage)
- University for Development Studies
- Diocese of Yendi (Ngani witches Camp)

International Partners

H4VPI is seeking to collaborate with any interested individual or organization interested in its core areas of operations. We look forward to working with such persons and organizations for the betterment of lives of our poor, marginalized and vulnerable women and children.