



The Humanity Exchange

international volunteer, research, and language learning opportunities.

Pre-Registration Information

There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace."

-Kofi Annan

The Ivory Coast

la Côte-d'Ivoire

Step out of your world... and into ours!

The Ivory Coast

Dance to the beats of Magic System and take in the unique architecture of Le Plateau. The Ivory Coast has been labeled the Paris of West Africa, and with good reason. It is the hub of West Africa's music scene and the warm smiling people are sure to please. Before crisis hit, the Ivory Coast was regarded as a post-colonial economic miracle. From the basilica to the skyscrapers, the evidence is there to prove it.



In the Ivory Coast, you will be volunteering in Abidjan with our partner, ONG Espoir. We work in areas with many widespread poverty where many children do not have access to a quality

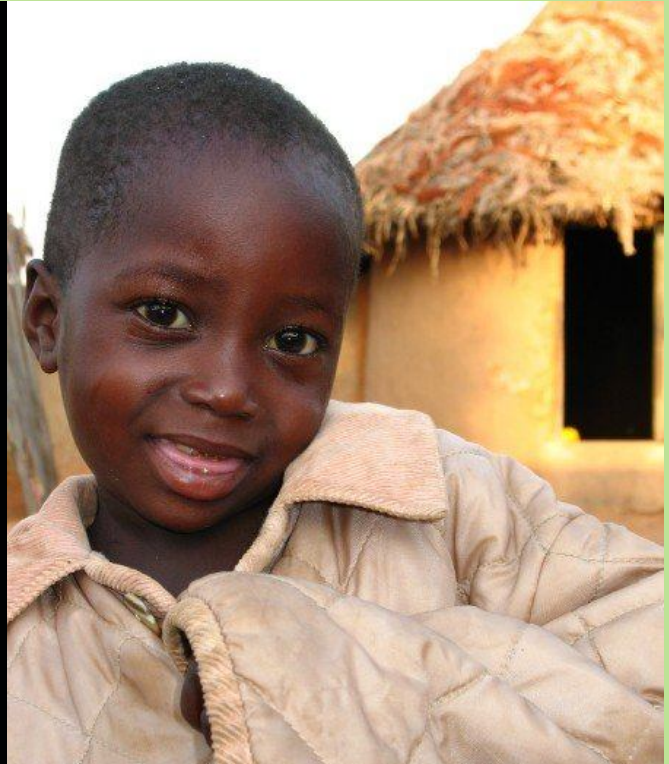
education. You will be working to improve literacy in children who, without this program, would not have the same chance of future employment. Literacy helps to break the cycle of poverty.

The Need

The people of the Ivory Coast are vibrant and welcoming. Sadly, like much of Sub-saharan Africa, it is a country suffering from extreme poverty. In 2008, the Ivory Coast was ranked 166 out of 179 on the United Nations Human Development Index, an indicator of wellbeing in countries around the world. Various factors contribute to this poor ranking. For example, 7.1% of adults under fifty are living with HIV, and almost half of the population lives on less than two dollars per day. In addition, the civil war that briefly erupted in 2002 only added fuel to the fire, pushing many Ivorians further into poverty. There is much work to be done.

You & THEX in The Ivory Coast

In the Ivory Coast, our partner works to help and protect orphaned, handicapped, and street children. Such children are helped in three major focus areas. Firstly, there is a focus on health, specifically HIV & AIDS and malaria. A second focus is on social development projects. And lastly, there is a focus on literacy and education of children.



E d u c a t i o n & L i t e r a c y

THEX volunteers and interns work in the literacy and education program. Not only is it ONG Espoir's main program, is it also the one most in need of volunteers.

What will I be doing?

There are many roles to be filled by volunteers and interns, which are dynamic and changing. You will be engaged in volunteer & intern work based on a combination of your background, and local needs at the time of your arrival. Examples of tasks you may be doing are:

- Evaluating new children to be admitted into the literacy and education program;
- Creating or adding to written materials of ONG Espoir (for marketing purposes);
- Developing partnerships with local schools;
- Preparing reports;
- Researching and developing partnerships with both local and international agencies.

Details of Placement

- You will be supervised by the Director of the literacy program and education program.
- Volunteers and Interns work seven hours a day, five days a week. This is including both activities in the office and working directly with children. The schedule has some flexibility.
- While French is the working language for this placement, volunteers and interns who have limited French and are still learning will be meaningfully engaged in ONG Espoir. The work setting is amenable to helping you learn French while you give back to the local community.

Who Volunteers in the Ivory Coast?

Our volunteers who work in the Ivory Coast are incredibly diverse in terms of age, nationality, career path, or educational background. All volunteers are required to speak either English or French. However, the working language is French. Therefore, if a person starts a program with just basic French, it is expected that they will be making a concerted effort to learn the language.

In addition to the main work areas outlined in this document, volunteers who want to stay for longer periods (at least two months) are in a position to help build capacity, for example by engaging in program development, donor development, or fundraising. For this work volunteers need to have an understanding of Microsoft Office programs and the internet. It is also helpful to have a background knowledge in grant writing and fund development. Finally, in general, we seek volunteers who have excellent communication skills, possess a willingness to learn, work well with others, and are proactive, open-minded, and flexible.



Where Will I be Living?

In the Ivory Coast you will be living with a host family. In doing so, you will have an incredible window into everyday life in Cameroon. Your host family will involve you in their regular activities such as eating a meal together or visiting with friends. It is an opportunity for you to learn from local people, and you are also expected to act respectfully to your host family. They have a genuine interest in your wellbeing and would like to have a general idea of your activities in Abidjan. Therefore, it is important that you give them an idea of your schedule, and let them know if you plan to do any activities in Abidjan aside from volunteering or interning and learning French.

You will have a modest room to yourself, or you may be sharing with another person living in the house (of the same sex only permitted).

Every family is different. Your Exchange Manager will discuss expectations with you when you arrive in-country. This is the best way to ensure you and your host family have a mutually enjoyable hosting experience.

Is it safe?

Your safety and security is our priority. By volunteering abroad in a developing country, you are choosing to spend time in a nation with widespread poverty. Therefore, it is important to be well-informed about how to stay safe, as well as volunteer with an organization like The Humanity Exchange that understands the importance of safety for participants.

How do we ensure safety?

Every volunteer is assigned an in-country Exchange Manager (EM) who is available 24/7. This is not simply an emergency phone number. Rather, your EM will be there from the moment your plane arrives. Your EM is responsible for helping you to learn how to live abroad, and how to stay safe.

Our Commitment to Integrity

At THEX, our two most important relationships are those with you, and those with our overseas partners. International volunteer organizations are plentiful, and each has its own way of conducting work. How do we ensure integrity?

1. We do not impose on communities. We only send volunteers when and where they are truly needed.
2. We look for participants with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and adaptability. We always provide pre-placement support and cultural education. This ensures the smoothest transition possible into your time abroad.

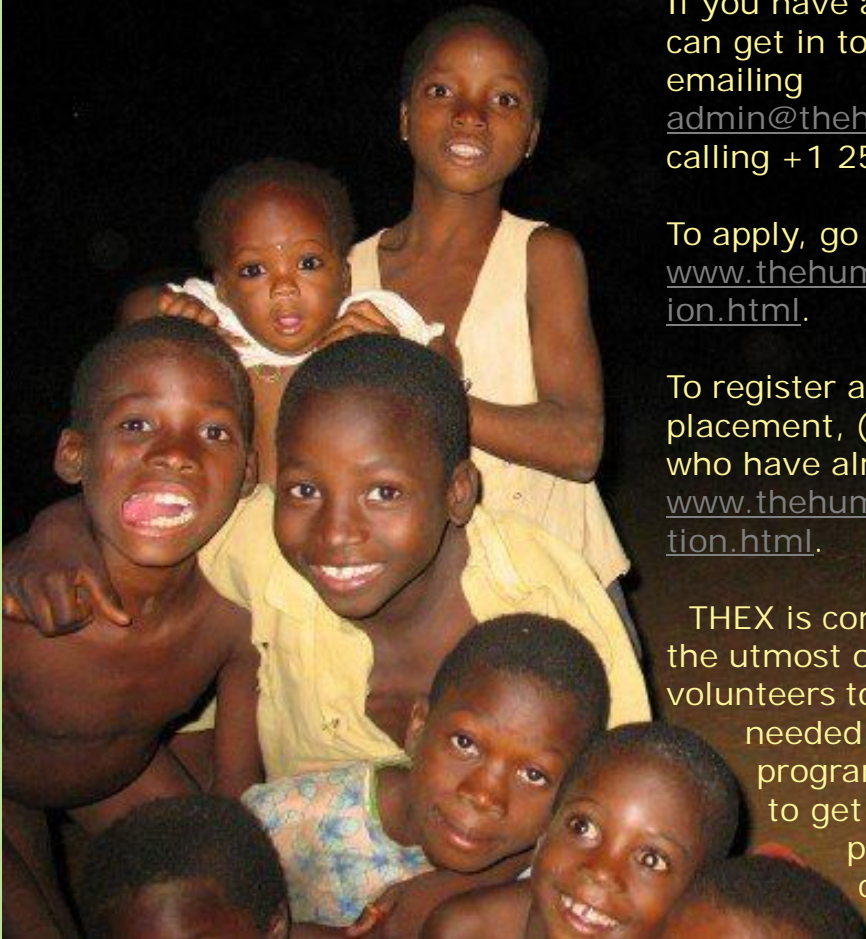
How Do I Get Involved?

If you have any further questions, you can get in touch with us at any time by emailing admin@thehumanityexchange.org, or calling +1 250 552 1667.

To apply, go to: www.thehumanityexchange.org/application.html.

To register and confirm your volunteer placement, (only applicable to those who have already applied), go to: www.thehumanityexchange.org/registration.html.

THEX is committed to working with the utmost of integrity, placing volunteers to work where they are truly needed, and providing affordable program options. We enable you to get involved and have a positive impact as a global citizen.



We look forward to hearing from you!