

## **Voluntary service – also for refugees**

With the sponsorship of the German Caritas Association (DCV) and its nationwide associated regional sponsors (autonomous organisational units), each year more than 5,000 volunteers, both young and old, can complete a federal volunteer service (BFD).

Volunteer service is a special form of civic engagement to support community services in welfare-focused organisations. In particular in the area of **refugee help** as well, we are experiencing an enormous amount of help and willingness to get involved from all generations, both from non-refugees and from refugees themselves. It is thus good news that the DCV is able to offer an additional 800 places for the "BFD pertaining to refugees".

### **The BFD is also open to people with experience of migration:**

- for refugees from 18 years of age and up
- persons entitled to be granted asylum or persons under international protection pursuant to Directive 2011/95/EU, or asylum-seekers who are expected to achieve lawful and long-term residence status in Germany (not secure countries of origin)
- with a minimum of 3 months' stay in Germany
- with living arrangements established for the duration of the voluntary service
- with an employment permit from the responsible foreigners' registration office

### **The BFD ...**

- consists of a practical task in a community charity and/or church organisation
- can be completed either full time or part time (more than 20 hours/week)
- is carried out over a period of 6 to max. 18 months
- and is educationally supported by 25 training days over a 12-month service (those aged 27 or older receive at least 12 training days)
- promotes the volunteers' ability to learn and their employability, gaining social competences and personal development.
- provides a daily structure in the voluntary service, greater knowledge of the German language and is an important opportunity to take part in something.

### **Benefits**

- Volunteers' social security contributions are paid, and they receive monthly pocket money, subsistence allowance and, in some cases, free lodgings.
- The training days are free. Travel costs to the seminar are reimbursed.
- At the end of the volunteer service, the volunteers receive a qualifying certificate and a statement of service.

### **Contact**

Advice and [communication to regional sponsors](#) via the DCV

[bfd@caritas.de](mailto:bfd@caritas.de), [www.caritas.de](http://www.caritas.de) or directly with the responsible regional sponsor.