

Facts of Serving with Friend Ships Unlimited

We are a working ministry, a transportation line to the poor and the less fortunate. At the present time, there is limited “hands on” evangelistic ministry during work hours, however, staff members are encouraged to become involved with local churches and outreaches in their off-duty time.

We do not have a DOCTRINAL STATEMENT: Friend Ships is a nonprofit charitable organization, hence we do not have a doctrinal statement. However we have a Mission Statement.

“Friend Ships Unlimited, (AKA Park West Children's Fund, Inc.) is dedicated to fulfilling the biblical scriptures that teach us to help people in times of need and to encourage others to do likewise. The organization works through the collection, delivery and distribution of food, medical supplies, clothing and building materials and by providing medical services and disaster relief services. We provide aid to people of all races, nationalities and religions at no charge. Programs give help to children, families and individuals who are impoverished, refugees and/or victims of natural disaster and to the institutions who assist them”.

We are not affiliated with a particular church, but we work with all Bible believing Christian denominations and our staff consists of Christians from many different denominations.

We do not offer a DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (other than our youth-oriented R.A.M.P. Program): Our volunteers come to us with a Pastor’s recommendation, stating that they are mature Christians, ready for Christian service. From Monday to Friday our day begins with a mandatory meeting called Morning Refreshing. The meeting usually consists of praise, worship and Bible teaching etc. Other meetings may be scheduled by Friend Ships’ leadership.

ELIGIBILITY: People at least **18 years** or older are eligible. There is **no upper age** limit as long as one’s health is good. **Families** with dependant children are accepted on a limited basis. **Single parents** with dependant children are not presently accepted. There are no **educational requirements**. Professional, skilled and unskilled people are all welcome, and a blessing.

EVALUATION PERIOD: Six months is set aside as an evaluation period. During this time new volunteers go through an orientation course held over a four day period. This consists mostly of teaching tapes, Bible studies, books and other materials used to help volunteers grasp the vision and better prepare for their service with Friend Ships. Upon successful completion of the evaluation period, a volunteer will be invited to fill out a “Dream Sheet,” stating where they would like to serve in Friend Ships. Some specific work positions require a long term commitment.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Friend Ships does not require any volunteer to raise support. However, it is necessary that volunteers have access to funds for medical and emergency needs. It is recommended that you also have USD \$50 to USD \$100 per month for personal spending money. Housing and food is furnished free of charge while serving with Friend Ships. Friend Ships is staffed entirely by volunteers. No one in the organization receives a salary.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Volunteers are **financially responsible** for their **travel** expenses when they come to join Friend Ships, go on vacation or leave the organization. Please be prepared to return home at your own expense if it becomes necessary for any reason. Foreign staff members are also responsible for fees related to visas and immigration permits.

MEDICAL: Friend Ships is not responsible for your medical and dental needs. You may want to consider carrying medical/dental insurance. There are some companies that operate internationally.

FULL TIME SERVICE: All men and women living on Friend Ships grounds, including those with children, are considered staff of Friend Ships, and are expected to participate with us full-time. There may be no outside employment of any kind.

WORK ASSIGNMENT: When you join Friend Ships you will be assigned a duty in a specific department. You will have a supervisor who will direct your daily work. Your skills and work preferences will be taken into consideration, but because of the nature of our work and the needs of the organization, shifting between facilities and departments often becomes necessary. Please remain open and flexible in such circumstances.

WORKING HOURS: Volunteering with us is a full-time commitment, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Our normal work week is Monday through Saturday. Typical work hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., depending on the location. At times, due to different circumstances (loading a vessel, being close to departure dates etc.) it becomes necessary to do the work of the ministry for longer hours and on Sundays. This is not a common occurrence. We ask that you carefully consider whether or not you will be able to work the longer hours, on Sundays and at times seven days a week. If you will not be able to comply with these occasional work demands please do not submit an application.

PERSONAL GROOMING & ETIQUETTE: Here at Friend Ships we expect all of our volunteers to be neat and well groomed. Please be modest in the way you dress. Upon arrival each new crew member will receive dress code guidelines that apply to serving with Friend Ships.

TIME OFF: Full-time staff earn 24 vacation days per year. You will not earn any vacation days during your six month evaluation period. No vacation time may be taken during this period unless it is to attend to essential personal matters. All vacation time is subject to the needs of the organization and the department in which you work.

ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS: No romantic relationships are allowed during your first six months. This is a time set aside to adjust to missionary life, communal living and the work of Friend Ships and to seek God for direction regarding future service with Friend Ships.

HOME SCHOOLING: Each mother can teach her own child (or children) 4 hours a day and may use the curriculum of choice. After the four hours, the child goes to child care and the mother works in the department she is assigned to. Fathers are expected to fill other full-time positions with Friend Ships. It is the responsibility of the parents to arrange and pay for the curriculum materials for their children.