

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity for your students and to ask your help. I work for an organization called *Innisfree Village* and we are a lifesharing community for adults with disabilities. In addition to the full time staff, we have volunteers who come here from all over the world to spend a year working with our residents, who we refer to as "co-workers" for the sake of inclusion. Our volunteers and co-workers live together in family style houses, helping one another run the household, while during the day we apply ourselves to various jobs around the property. We have gardens and a farm, weavery and woodshop, bakery, pottery, art studio, and some folks work in the commercial kitchen to help prepare the lunches we share as a community most days of the week.

The volunteer opportunity at Innisfree is a great place for people to experience what it is like to care for others in a beautiful rural setting, with a group of other volunteers from all over the world. The friendships/relationships forged at Innisfree tend to extend beyond ones tenure in the community and are often lifelong. In addition, there are a number of us who came here for "just a year," and have ended up staying to move into staff positions due to the fun and fulfilling nature of the work we do.

We have had a number of recent graduates from colleges both near and far who come here to spend a year caring for and learning from our coworkers. Their enthusiasm helps to energize our little village, and their open-mindedness helps us to see things in new ways, spurring change and the ability to adapt to the ever-evolving needs of our co-workers and our community.

What we offer in return, in addition to room, board, access to a fleet of vehicles, health insurance, and a modest stipend, is an opportunity for new graduates to spend a year learning to run a household and care for the people around them. It is a place to discover new skills and interests while shouldering the responsibility of life outside of school. It can be a time to build one's resumé, particularly for anyone looking into social services, Pre-med, nursing, rehabilitative services, PT, OT or education. Best of all, it is a place to see the beauty of humanity and to learn how well our imperfect shapes find ways of interlocking with just enough space in between to let the light shine through.

Please let us know how we might work together to find meaningful placements here for your students.