

Thank you for considering a long-term volunteer stay with Promise Home!

This experience is sure to be eye-opening, challenging, and memorable. In order to best serve our volunteers and the needs of our kids and staff at Promise Home, please keep in mind the following expectations when considering a long-term commitment with us:

- **Language**

The language barrier can be tricky to navigate, both with the kids and when interacting with others in the Chiang Rai area in general. While you can certainly find many Westerners around Chiang Rai, not everybody speaks fluent or even passable English. Oftentimes, those working in the hospitality industry are among the most able to help you communicate. Please be open to trying to learn basic Thai phrases, as these will be immensely helpful in your communication with the kids and others. Please be open to teaching English to the kids and other interested individuals as well. It is perhaps the single best way to positively impact their future.

- **Time Commitment**

Long-term volunteers are those who are considering a stay of at least a month, though two to three months would be much more beneficial, as the kids and staff need time to get to know you, and it takes time to settle into the way of life around Chiang Rai. We ask that volunteers take this time commitment seriously.

During the days that the kids are in school, volunteers are welcome to explore the Chiang Rai area. There are hangouts where you can find other Westerners to compare experiences with, and plenty of exciting adventures to be had. Day trips into the surrounding area (with or without a guide), checking out markets, taking part in holiday festivities, visiting coffee shops and getting massages are just a short list of the activities available around Chiang Rai. You can also take more extensive trips by bus, train or plane to other Thai and Southeast Asian places of interest. Often these trips work better at the start of your time of arrival to volunteer, or as you are preparing to leave Thailand. We ask that you spend a majority of the time that the kids are at home with them, whether it's playing games, tutoring in English, watching movies and shows (yes, in Thai), or taking them to a local park.

- **Expenses**

Charities Within Reach, the nonprofit organization that operates Promise Home, offers to long-term volunteers food (for each of the meals which the volunteer partakes in at Promise Home). However, the organization is unable to pay for or reimburse any other expenses that are incurred as a result of your time volunteering with us, including lodging, medical fees, transportation costs (including your flights to and from Thailand), or any other expenses. Long-term volunteers are welcome to solicit donations to cover the expenses of their trip, but

Charities Within Reach is not able to participate directly in these efforts. It is suggested that you look into using websites such as [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) or other sites.

- **Lodging**

Charities Within Reach may or may not be able to help you arrange lodging for your time spent in Chiang Rai by using various connections, but the cost of the lodging is the sole responsibility of the volunteer. In either case, you are always welcome to procure your own lodging. Some popular options include: a) renting out a room (most likely you would want to live with another English speaker), b) arranging to stay in one of the hostels long-term, or c) finding an apartment to rent. Other options may be available. Please feel free to ask questions about the different lodging options available by emailing former long-term volunteer Max at [mdkoch66@gmail.com](mailto:mdkoch66@gmail.com).

- **Medical**

It's important that you have the appropriate immunizations before coming to Thailand. Some of these require a series of shots that is given over time, so it's best to start early. The best way is to visit a travel clinic or your county health department. Some of the possible recommended vaccinations might be for Japanese Encephalitis, Hepatitis A and B, and Typhoid. Not all of these may be necessary, and some may vary by the time of year you plan to be in Thailand, where you plan to go, and the sort of activities you plan to partake in.

- **Background Check**

In order to protect the kids and staff of Promise Home, we do require a background check for all long-term volunteers. Additionally, we have a Child Protection Policy in place to ensure the safety of our children that **must** be signed and followed completely. If we feel that the safety of any of our children is in jeopardy at any time on account of a long-term volunteer, we would have to immediately take whatever degree of action was necessary to rectify the situation.

- **Around Promise Home**

Please take seriously the impact that you have on the quality of life at Promise Home. Please be quick to offer assistance, clean up after yourself and others, and make sure that your actions are in alignment with our goal of creating a *home* and a *family* for our kids. We want you to be comfortable in the home, and for the kids to be comfortable interacting with you. Please make an effort to constantly reach out to each of the kids, and be approachable during your time around them. Feel free to share your passions and interests with the kids, as long as they are age appropriate.