

## Emmaüs Scherwiller Centre Alsace

<http://www.emmaus-scherwiller.fr/>



### Description:

Emmaüs Scherwiller is above all a place of welcome, life, activity and solidarity, which operates without any subsidy and solely thanks to the recovery of objects.

This financial autonomy allows the association to be free in its actions. The person welcomed (named companion) into the community stays as long as he/she wish.

The communities welcome people from all backgrounds without distinction of race, religion, country or background. The community allows the companions to regain their social health, to rediscover, without time limit, the benchmarks of an organized social life.

Since 2010, Emmaüs has benefited from the status of Community Reception and Solidarity Activities Organization which officially recognizes the status of solidarity worker for companions and guarantees them access to health and retirement rights. A recognition for which Abbé Pierre fought throughout his life.

The presence of stakeholders provides, depending on each person's skills, listening and mutual assistance to work in the service of the collective.

### Welcoming :

- 50 companions welcomed
- 782 hours of community service
- 136 days of internships
- 12 days of accountability for minor students
- 180 students on a discovery day of Emmaüs

### Sharing: 3,100 tonnes of donations per year !

- 47% recycled into raw materials,
- 45% reconditioned and put up for sale
- 8% sent to landfill.

### Solidarity: 192 families helped

- 85 families benefits from furniture or household appliances
- 107 families benefits from financial assistance for the payment of an energy bill, insurance bill, etc.

### Emmaüs History :

In 1949, Henri Groues, known as Abbé Pierre during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war as a resistant, restored a house in which he lived. This house, a meeting place, became an international

youth hostel which he named "Emmaüs". The Emmaüs movement was born from this initiative, the aim of which is "to act so that every man, every society, every nation can live, assert themselves and fulfill themselves in exchange and sharing, as well as in equal dignity".

The Emmaüs association was created in 1953 to organize and develop this movement. After the ravages of the 1939-45 war, the harsh winter of 1954 killed people on the street. In this context of serious housing shortage, Abbé Pierre launched his famous appeal, "My friends, help"; he triggers "the insurrection of Goodness" and strongly influences the public authorities. A huge solidarity movement was born: the appeal will bring, during this winter, 500 million francs in donations.

The following days saw the creation of numerous structures within Emmaüs and the gradual emergence of Emmaüs Communities (117 in France). In 1985, the Emmaüs France association was created, which then brought together all the French Emmaüs groups.

### Tasks and missions of the volunteer (2 EU-volunteers host)

- ✓ Sorting activity of collected items
- ✓ Assist companions in tasks
- ✓ Suggest outings, excursions with them
- ✓ Listen to companions and talk to them
- ✓ Sell books, clothes, toys, dishes
- ✓ Present a personal project beneficial for the volunteer and for the association : Blanca did some internet website ; Franziska implemented an exhibition of Emmaus story ; Christoph did a movie with retired companions ; Jorge was the guide of peruvian companions ; Elena animated a young group during the summer...

### Difficulties that can occur :

- ✓ The french language barrier at the beginning (but french course organized)
- ✓ Work punctually evenings and weekends
- ✓ Flexibility must be, as organization
- ✓ Be passionate about history

### Accommodation

- ✓ Accommodation will be within the Emmaüs center :
- ✓ An apartment with a private bedroom
- ✓ Bathroom
- ✓ Access to a kitchen
- ✓ The toilets (showers and WC) and living room are shared
- ✓ Internet access organized

Meals will be taken in community, with the other volunteer and the companions.

### Schedules

Indicative times : 5 days of activities for 7 hours/day (8:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00)

2 days of vacation are planned per month of presence.

The volunteer will have to be present on certain weekends, especially when the store is open, but this is really rare.

### Qualities & skills that would be appreciate :

Creativity, dynamism, Team spirit and open mindness, helpfulness, flexibility and responsibility, interest for history

Driving license

Some french language knowledge

### Scherwiller & its surroundings

Scherwiller is a French commune located in Elsass, in the region Grand-Est.

Its population is 3171 inhabitants. It is located 5 kms from

Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines to the east, Villé to the north, Sélestat to the west,

and 3.5 km from Châtenois to the south

### Sports & leisure ideas

Scherwiller & Sélestat is:

- ✓ library
- ✓ museum
- ✓ Parks and gardens
- ✓ Rugby, gymnastics, football club...
- ✓ Pastries and restaurants
- ✓ Shops
- ✓ Cinema
- ✓ Cultural activities (theater, shows...)
- ✓ Nightclubs
- ✓ Nature and castle ruins to discover
- ✓ Wine cellar and Wine estates
- ✓ Railstation in Sélestat, to join Strasbourg and other cities