

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions for Interested Volunteers.

1. What do volunteers do at the Fountain of Life (FOL) Center?

Volunteers who come to the Fountain of Life Center teach English and provide support and a relationship to the vulnerable women. Fountain of Life Women's Center is a center for marginalized women, exploited by the sexual tourism industry of Pattaya. Most of the women have come to Pattaya hoping to improve their economic situation and with their earnings support their families in the north and northeast of Thailand.

2. When was the FOL Center founded?

Fountain of Life Children's and Women's Centers in Pattaya were both founded in 1989 by Sr. Michelle, a Good Shepherd Sister. Sr. Piyachat is the current director of the Women's Center. At the center, we have Thai staff and foreign volunteers to help run the center and classes.

3. Besides teaching, what responsibilities do volunteers have?

- A. Teaching English is the main responsibility of a volunteer, but volunteers are also asked to help in different ways around the Women's Center.
- B. Weekly Leader is one volunteer who shares on Monday morning with the other volunteers. The topic can be anything (example: hometowns, activities or sports you have been involved in, things that are important to you, hobbies, etc.) A weekly leader also leads a meditation, deep discussion and/or prayer on Wednesday and Thursday morning.
- C. Presentation Rotation is a project for the volunteers and Thai staff to rotate. It is a chance to share with everyone a topic you are educated about (example: studies and education, hometowns/counties, interests, hobbies, etc.)
- D. Washing Cups. Every day after lunch and after class, two volunteers are required to wash cups. This is a simple task to help the staff and the center.

4. How long can a volunteer stay at FOL Center?

A volunteer can stay at the Fountain of Life Women's Center 3 months (90 Days) to 6 months (180 Days).

5. Can volunteering at the FOL Center be done as an internship?

Volunteering at the FOL Center can be done as an internship. There might be difficulties meeting all of the requirements for your university but we welcome people who are open to seeing how teaching English can offer the women much more, for example, counseling and social work.

6. What time does class start?

Morning class starts at 9:30am and is finished at 11:30am. Afternoon class starts at 12:30pm and is finished at 2:30pm.

7. Is it possible to volunteer in the FOL Women's Center and the Fountain of Life Children's Center?

At this time you can only volunteer at the FOL Women's Center. There are no volunteers at the Fountain of Life Children's Center and they are not looking for any.

8. Is it obligatory to use the FOL Center accommodation while staying? Can we still volunteer while having our own accommodations?

It is not obligatory to use the FOL Center for accommodation while volunteering. You can work at the FOL and have your own accommodations but the FOL Center does not provide funding for your separate housing. If you would like to live at a separate facility, it is your responsibility to locate, fund, and follow their policies.

The FOL Center accommodation does not allow males and females to be housed at the same time, so if you have a relationship, it is our responsibility to live outside the center.

9. If we have our own accommodation can we still have breakfast and lunch at the FOL Center?

The Center provides breakfast and lunch from Monday to Friday. If you live outside of the FOL Center in your own accommodation you are still more than welcome to eat breakfast and lunch with the other volunteers and staff.

10. What is the housing like at FOL Center?

The housing at the FOL Center is on 4th floor. It is a single room and you will share common bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. During the holidays (two weeks in December for Christmas and two weeks in April for Songkran), the volunteers staying in the apartments must leave the apartment. You can come back the weekend before classes start again.

11. How much does it cost to stay at the FOL Center accommodations?

There is a small fee while staying at the FOL Center accommodations. There is a 50 Baht fee for the housing, 50 Baht fee for internet and there are electricity readings for each room, each month that you are required to pay, (that price can vary depending how much electricity you use each month).

12. Do we get time off? When are the holidays in Thailand?

Each month we have one day off (no class) for an “activity day.” The themes of these days depend on a national holiday (Buddhist Lent, Mother’s Day, Songkran, etc.) or an issue that affects the women (domestic violence, STIs information, laws that can help women married to foreigners, etc.). The only holiday time off from volunteering at the FOL Center is for Christmas and Songkran.

13. How do I get from the Bangkok Airport to Pattaya and the FOL Center?

Bangkok to Pattaya

Bus -You can check at the airport for any buses or vans going to Pattaya. The cost should be about 100-200 Baht. The bus might go straight to Pattaya or may make some stops along the way to drop other people off. The bus or vans do not usually take you specifically where you are going but have a drop off spot.

Taxi - You can ask a taxi to take you from the airport to Pattaya. It will be a little more expensive than the buses. It will cost around 1000 Baht, but other volunteers have paid 1500 Baht. The Taxi should be able to drop you off specifically at the FOL Center when you tell them Naklua Soi 25 (Dolphin Roundabout).

Pattaya to Fountain of Life Center

Taxi - When you get to Pattaya you can take a cab to the Women's Center and tell them Naklua Soi 25.

Song Tayo - You can ask one of the Song Tayo (Public Transportation in Pattaya) if they are driving to or on Naklua Road and you can watch the signs for SOI 25 on Naklua Road.

14. What is the address of the Fountain of Life Women’s Center

The Fountain of Life Women's Center is located on Soi 25, Naklua Road.

The Official Address:

Fountain of Life Women’s Center

572/1 M.5 Naklua 25,

Banglamung, Chonburi

20150, Thailand