

## The words of young Civic Service Volunteers

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Every year, OFI offers a dozen young Civic Service Volunteers the opportunity to carry out a mission in India, in the states of West Bengal, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. This year-long human experience is a real opportunity for them. The missions on offer give them the chance to take part in leading activities with children and young adults, supporting young people with disabilities, etc.

### Zoé, 8 months into her Civic Service with the NGO SEVAI (Tamil Nadu)



"In a large school located in a rural area, as an IT assistant and initiator of extra-curricular activities, I had the chance to discover a culture that was profoundly different from my own. I've acquired a great capacity to adapt, a very open mind, and greater personal and professional confidence. I'm now sure that managing development projects, particularly in education, will be my passion and the subject of my future studies. I could sum up my journey by all the encounters I've had, both professional and on deeper levels, which have sustained me throughout my adventure in India and enriched me greatly. After 8 months here, I'm proud of myself and very grateful to have had this opportunity. The only thing I regret is not being able to do it again!

### Hugo, 11 months into his Civic Service with the NGO Don Bosco Ashalayam (West Bengal)

"My name is Hugo, I'm 25 years old, and in almost a month I'll have been living in Kolkata, India for a year. Here, I work as a Civic Service for the NGO Don Bosco Ashalayam, which operates with disadvantaged children, particularly those living on the streets and in shanty towns. I'm a rugby 'coach', and my work has focused on an incredible project that enabled 14 children to be invited to France to take part in the first Schools Rugby World Cup. My role was to prepare and support the children throughout the project. It was an enriching and incredible experience, both for them - we're talking about the trip of a lifetime - and also for me, seeing them grow, discovering new things and returning home with stars in their eyes.

I'm continuing to develop the sport here and I'm also helping the Indian teachers with their work. Life is incredible here in Kolkata, and the people you meet and talk to are very friendly and sympathetic. You feel good and it's a great place to live. Playing sports with the children is also very enjoyable, and you feel useful - so useful that I've decided to extend my experience by another year on a VSI contract.



## *Sophia, 1 month into her Civic Service with the NGO DIN (Karnataka)*



"I've been in India for a month now, working for Dream India Network in Bangalore. I haven't been bored since I've arrived. I've been able to immerse myself in Indian culture, with the flavoursome food, the chai, the local languages and the kindness of the Indian people. My assignments are varied and allow me to make myself useful to the children, helping them with their homework, raising their awareness of different subjects (taking care of yourself, 'good touch/bad touch') and also having fun with them by playing sports! I can't wait to see what this year of volunteering has in store for me. "

## *And all the others, including...*

- **Adèle, Juliette , Marie Lou**, in West Bengal for the NGO ABC : sharing their expertise in occupational therapy with the teams in place to care for disabled children.
- **Lucas and Gaëtan** in Tamil Nadu : Sports leaders at the Shanthi School in SEVAI: sharing their enthusiasm to motivate students in badminton teams and other sports...
- **Anna and Zaki** in Tamil Nadu : Agronomy students: follow the managers on their visits to OFI's agricultural development projects, taking note of information and data to see how crops have evolved since the watersheds were set up.
- **Laurie, Alice and Morgann** in Bangalore : accompanied the teachers to a school for the migrants' children from northern India. It is a major challenge to get them into school and teach them 3 languages at the same time. Sports, theatre, and the library were all great ways of communicating!

All are passionate about their missions, and all enjoy an exceptional intercultural experience that enables them to reflect on the essential values of life and the notion of sharing.

*Don't hesitate to spread the word about Civic Service.*

Open to all young people between the ages of 16 and 25, civic services offer a framework of commitment where young people can live a unique human experience.

OFI has been approved by the Civic Service Agency to send young people on a Civic Service contract to partner NGOs in India. The volunteers receive an allowance to cover all their expenses. Insurance costs (sickness, repatriation, mutual civil liability insurance) are covered.

The missions offered by OFI can be viewed via the link below (Objectif France-Inde - Inde/Trouver ma mission) :

[https://www.service-civique.gouv.fr/trouver-ma-mission?keyword=Objectif%20France-Inde&location=Inde&orderby\\_field=PERTINENCE&orderby\\_direction=DESC&first=10&page=1](https://www.service-civique.gouv.fr/trouver-ma-mission?keyword=Objectif%20France-Inde&location=Inde&orderby_field=PERTINENCE&orderby_direction=DESC&first=10&page=1)

You can also send an email to [recrutement.ofi@gmail.com](mailto:recrutement.ofi@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU to all the volunteers and to our donors  
(individuals, foundations, institutions, members of OFI) to make our projects possible.  
The [2024 membership form](#) is online.**