

ATD Full-Time Volunteers

All Together in Dignity (ATD) Full-Time Volunteers are men and women who have a long-term commitment with people living in extreme poverty. They support their efforts and projects towards gaining access to basic human rights and they encourage others to be involved with them.

ATD Volunteer Corps members play a crucial role in reaching communities and families facing persistent poverty. Within these communities they support and create projects and programs that reinforce people's daily efforts to have a better life.

ATD was founded in France in 1957 by Joseph Wresinski. From the very beginning, people of all ages have committed themselves to living alongside, learning from, and sharing the daily hopes and aspirations of those who are isolated and excluded.

In early 2013, there were 460 ATD full-time Volunteers (261 women, 199 men) from 41 different countries in the Global North and South.

Working out of small international teams in their native country or elsewhere in the world, Volunteer Corps members are currently present in 30 countries.



Marjorie is Filipino

She learned about persistent poverty in her country through the Street Library project. Children at Street Library said to her, "You volunteers come one time and then you leave us." Challenged by these words, Marjorie decided to join the ATD Volunteer Corps and start a long-term commitment. She was first with the team in Bangkok and is currently in Geneva where she directs Tapani, a worldwide network of friendship and peace building between children of different backgrounds.



The International ATD Volunteer Corps challenges and seeks to distinguish itself from a society where money dominates. This choice and commitment by full-time Volunteers is in line with **working towards a people-centered society** through:

- **A long-term commitment** that requires an availability to go where most needed and set aside a more traditional career path. Most ATD full-time Volunteers live and work alongside people or communities who face the violence of poverty and exclusion and act together with them on a daily basis so they can access their basic human rights.
- **Team work** based on each person's knowledge, experience and passion.
- **Actions and projects built around those people not seen or heard** in society that create spaces and ways they and others recognize how they are activists, sources of knowledge and experience, and creators of peace in the work to overcome poverty.
- **Approaches that encourage others to become involved**, as individuals, communities or through institutional partnerships, to create a strong current of societal change based upon and of true benefit to the reality of people living in persistent poverty.
- **A modest stipend** that is decided upon together and the same for everyone within the same country, regardless of seniority or responsibility. In Ireland in 2013: €730/month + health insurance and rent allowances. This applies at the end of one year of internship with lower stipend.

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