

Calvary Zion Children's Home - Volunteer Guidance

Calvary Zion Children's Home recognises that hosting international volunteers brings many benefits for the children, the Children's Home and the volunteer but, at the same time, it is important to minimise the disruption for those left behind when the volunteers go back home.

For this reason we have drawn up some guidelines which we would respectfully ask volunteers to Calvary Zion Children's Home to adhere to. These guidelines do not replace any guidance given by your volunteer organisation .

- Respect the authority, expertise and experience of the Director and the local paid staff. They understand the local situation and will know each child's needs.
- It is important to have realistic expectations about what you can achieve as a volunteer, especially during short placements. It is good to bring ideas for improvements but local processes and ways of working may mean that you are not able to implement them as you would wish- discuss ideas with the director of the Home before acting.
- Compared with children from developed countries the Calvary Zion children do not have many material possessions, clothes, toys, etc. However, the Director maintains a store of good clothes and toys but their use is controlled so that they are not wasted or lost. Please respect this.
- Do not give expensive presents or treats to the children without first discussing it with the Director. It may be tempting to give some of the children a special toy or an outing but this can cause jealousy and resentment from the other children and could backfire on the one singled out. The repercussions may be ongoing long after you have left Kenya.
- Do not make promises to the children that you cannot keep. Broken promises can be damaging for a child's emotional development.
- Do not raise the children's expectations, e.g. that you will provide a home for them when you leave. No matter how fond you become of a specific child you cannot take them away from the Children's Home.