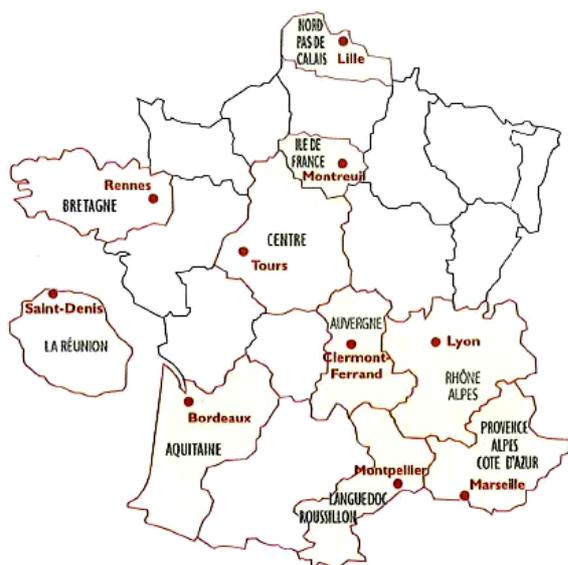


GENERAL PRESENTATION

"**Compagnons Bâisseurs**" (CBF) is an NGO founded in 1957. Its aim was to help a population that had been hard hit by the effects of World War II, to reconstruct those homes destroyed during the conflict. From the very beginning up until today, CBF has been putting the principle of solidarity into practice in the form of workcamps, as well as promoting peace and better understanding between people from all over the world.

CBF is now composed as a network of one national organization and 9 regional organizations in France:



- **Rennes, Brest and Lanester** in Brittany.
- **Bordeaux** in Aquitaine.
- **Clermont-Ferrand et Thiers** in Auvergne.
- **Montpellier** in Languedoc Roussillon.
- **Marseille, Var et Vaucluse** in Provence.
- **Lyon** in Rhône-Alpes.
- **Paris** in Ile de France.
- **Saint Denis** in Reunion island (Indian Ocean).
- **Tours** in the Centre.

It carries out **3 activities** throughout the year which are:

- **Technical, financial and social support supplied to families and people in need**, those often marginalized from society and **to organizations** dedicated to collective interest projects, regarding the improvement of housing. The aim is to work along with the owner or renter of the house or flat, and with neighbourhoods' networks
- **Professional integration** into building trades through construction site, training course... The aim is to help people with social or professional difficulties to re-enter the job market.
- **Promote and develop voluntary by :**
 - Encouraging the participation in voluntary actions of a diversity of people from CBF network (LTV, MTV, STV from workcamps, volunteers from the Executive Committee, families who participated in the renovation of their home, neighbourhoods' networks, people coming from professional integration activities...). The aim is to **encourage mobility** and participation inside the CBF network and also abroad through Alliance networks.
 - Offering the possibility to participate in **workcamps** (2 or 3 weeks) in France and abroad, most of the time in the field of housing, ecological constructions, surroundings and standard of living. Workcamps' projects deal with construction and renovation of buildings such as social centres, community buildings or heritage buildings (old fountains, washhouses, wells, old stone bread ovens...) .
 - Coordinating **LTV projects**. Each regional organisation hosts between 2 and 11 volunteers, men and women over 18 years old who mainly come from France or European Union. The volunteers work together with families and neighbourhoods' networks to help them renovating their house and reinvesting their homes.

LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS WITH COMPAGNONS BÂTISSEURS FRANCE

With an intervention in the field of building (from renovation to construction) the voluntary sector brings concrete help to families or people in need, often excluded from society and to organisations dedicated to collective interest projects.

The teams intervene with and for the families for the improvement of their living conditions, giving them in this way the means to reinvest their housing. Volunteers work in one of the five local Compagnons Bâtitseurs organizations in France, and they share a community life.

THE VOLUNTEERS

The volunteer posts are open to girls and boys over 18 from different nationalities, with or without preliminary knowledge in construction and renovation. They have different status: European Voluntary Service volunteers, conscientious objectors, and Civic Service volunteers (French status). They all must be prepared to commit themselves in the fulfilment of the objectives of the organisation and develop their awareness of:

- Working closely with families in need and with organisations involved in community projects
- Participating to associative and communal life.
- Working as a genuine part of a team outside traditional structures
- Sharing a different experience of life.

This commitment is very demanding but also offers unquestionable experience and awareness of responsibility. On the project, volunteers also will find many ways to enjoy themselves through new acquaintances and cultural exchanges.



WORK DESCRIPTION

Working with the organisation staff (administrative mentors and technical supervisors) and with the social worker in charge of the family, the volunteers prepare and assure the technical, financial and human aspects on the building site. They also try to make the families involved in the improvement of their living conditions by working together on the site.

Although the main purpose in the carrying out of the work, the activity has therefore an important social and human aspect that makes our intervention different from a professional one. This in particular includes the participation of the family in the project (choice of the work that has to be done, the material...) and also in its technical realisation.

Furthermore, when possible the volunteers share the lunch with the family which provides a valuable time to get to know each other and may create strong links based on trust and sharing. Volunteers are also fully involved in the organisation life, especially through their participation in the national and local administrative councils, general assemblies and through the Volunteers' Collective which regroups all volunteers. In summer, volunteers can work as group co-leaders on international summer workcamps organised by the association.

LIVING CONDITIONS

The volunteers live and work as a part of a team of 3 to 5 people, sharing a flat or a house in one of the places where we host volunteers in France : in Brittany (in Rennes and Brest), in the Loire Valley (in Tours), in Provence (in Marseille), in Montpellier (Languedoc), in Bordeaux (Aquitaine) and in Reunion's island. In some of these places there is also local French volunteers as part of the team, the difference is that they do not share the flat.

LTV receive a monthly allowance covering food expenses and pocket money (about 400 €/month). Accommodation is provided by Compagnons Bâtitisseurs. Because of their low budget, LTV have to adapt themselves during their long term experience to an alternative way of living, sharing a communal life. Compagnons Bâtitisseurs pay all the costs related to the training, the local or national associative activities in which volunteers are involved.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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