



**INTERNATIONAL  
VOLUNTARY  
SERVICES**

**HOME OFFICE**

**1555 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036**

## WHAT IS IVS, INC.?

International Voluntary Services, Inc., is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the District of Columbia in 1953. It was organized by a group of people committed to the idea that American youth could make an important contribution to international goodwill by establishing person-to-person contacts with people of another country, through a service program which the people of the host country would want and in which they would participate.

From an organization primarily concerned with agriculture and other rural programs, IVS, Inc. has evolved, with the passage of time and the force of circumstances, in varied directions. It has served in 14 countries, and had it not been dramatically and successfully superseded by the United States Peace Corps it doubtless would have served in many more. It has developed teams in education—both teaching English and teaching in English. Its volunteers have been successful in community development projects, both rural and urban. Much good work has been done by IVS volunteers with student groups overseas—notably in Vietnam.

As this is written in the spring of 1968, IVS has teams under contract in three countries—Vietnam, Laos, and Morocco and is negotiating for work in others, concentrating its interest where there is no conflict with Peace Corps programs.

## WHY INTERNATIONAL?

IVS was originally conceived as a means to facilitate work of American youth overseas. Its development has enabled it to benefit from the good work of many non-Americans. In 1968 IVS ranks included nationals of Canada, Britain, Japan, India, Taiwan, the Philippines, Haiti, Israel, the Netherlands, and Korea. IVS policy is to continue to encourage service from all nations who are welcome in the host country.



## HOW IVS WORKS

IVS recruits carefully selected young men and women willing to learn a foreign language, prepared if necessary to live in remote villages and to work directly with local people. They may live in provincial towns, or in principal cities, if they are engaged in teaching or in youth and student activities, but in any case they live simply and without ostentation; their contacts are direct and personal. They are true examples of a "people to people" program.

By living and working as private citizens, IVS team members encourage the unique spirit of goodwill and understanding that comes through being a good neighbor. They supplement the technical assistance supplied by others at governmental levels often working under the general direction and guidance of responsible technicians and government ministries. They encourage town and village people to use more effectively assistance available from these sources.

IVS projects are financed both by government and private funds. Much IVS support comes from the Agency for International Development.

IVS benefits from the technical guidance and support of senior technicians from other organizations. Volunteers frequently work closely with extension agents, researchers, and technicians of the various host governments. The basic role for an IVSer, however, remains the development and maintenance of close personal contacts in his own area and field of activity. These may be with a few farmers, a group of refugees, a fellow teacher, a host government counterpart, or a village chief. Such contacts provide the ultimate test of an IVS-er's success.

## THE CHALLENGE TO THE VOLUNTEER

The IVS volunteer with ability and determination finds an immediate challenge as he confronts numerous opportunities for the development of projects involving a host of practical, technical and managerial problems. By applying

his own skills in a foreign culture, a volunteer gains technical experience, as well as practice in human relations. The opportunities for such experience are limitless, as the IVSer may well be the only foreign technician in continuing contact with a project.

IVS volunteers may work in schools, and from direct contact with their pupils gain much practical experience of value to their future careers in education. They also help a new generation of young people to communicate with the English-speaking world, and thus to become aware of new ideas in science, industry and agriculture.

IVS engineers and agriculturists sometimes work directly with large groups, and provide the direction on the spot to assure compliance with technical planning. Such an experience has often shown great benefits to the volunteer in developing his responsibility, confidence, and talent for leadership.

Team work between IVS and AID has resulted in volunteers living close to the farmer or villager, speaking his language and sharing his ideas. A senior technician is often involved in office work and in contacts with the officials of the host government, and thus is unable to keep in daily contact with projects in outlying areas. Under these circumstances, the IVS volunteer, if he proves his worth, can operate with great independence.

## TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

IVS volunteers work in the field broadly defined as community development. This includes one or a combination of the following types of activity: general agriculture; poultry and animal husbandry; plant experimentation, propagation and distribution; range management; reforestation; irrigation; well-drilling; low-cost housing, sanitation and village improvement generally. They also serve as elementary and secondary school teachers, with the great majority as English language,

vocational and science teachers. Recent emphasis on student activities has led IVS to broaden its scope still further. Possibilities of sharing language skills overseas can open doors for IVS even in highly developed nations.

## **TYPES OF PERSONNEL USED**

Most IVS personnel are recent college graduates with training in a field that relates to rural development, education, and social work in the broadest sense of the term. Team members are sought who have skills, training and experience that enable them to be helpful to people in a wide range of activity affecting their welfare. In many IVS projects, farm background is a key asset in providing such help. In educational work, farm background is not a prerequisite, and IVS seeks recruits with liberal arts backgrounds.

IVS candidates must be willing in case of need to live in primitive situations, to work cooperatively with fellow team members, and to assist others regardless of color, creed or economic status. They must be above reproach in motivation and conduct and possess good physical and mental health.

## **THE CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

IVS volunteers serve under the personal supervision of an experienced leader who has administrative control of the team and serves as liaison with the host government, the local office of the funding agency, and IVS headquarters in Washington. IVS personnel are offered a two-year contract, under which they are obligated to follow the guidance of IVS and its administrative staff. They are guaranteed all necessary expenses—transportation to the project and return home, housing, subsistence, a cash clothing allowance, medical care, insurance, an annual thirty-day vacation (with an extra cash vacation allowance)—plus a cash salary of \$80.00 per month, which can in most cases be saved.

## **IVS AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

Although IVS programs have been financed in large measure by the Agency for International Development of the United States Government, IVS is rightfully jealous of the private nature of its volunteers and of their contacts with host country citizens, regardless of religion or politics. Whether the IVS volunteer is American or a citizen of another country, he remains a private citizen, entitled to his opinions, but equally as a guest in a foreign country owing the courtesy of a guest to his hosts. He is therefore well-advised not to meddle in politics, but to be circumspect in word and action.

Ideally, his relationships should be with individuals, and service to them and to their social and economic organizations should be his sole purpose.

## **TO WHAT DOES AN IVS OVERSEAS POST LEAD?**

Those spending two years in an overseas post gain personal insight into the tremendous problems faced by underdeveloped countries—economic, social, political. IVS offers an opportunity to promote friendly relations among the people of these countries. It also offers volunteers opportunities to advance in Foreign Service careers, as well as in international business. Those who come back from the field find their IVS experience highly regarded by employers for overseas service. IVS experience is valuable background for those pursuing scholarly careers in special areas.

## **SECURING AN APPOINTMENT**

Anyone possessing a spirit of service and a strong desire to promote international goodwill and understanding, and having confidence in his skill and ability, should write to the IVS Washington office for a formal application blank.

## IVS Directors and staff

**MR. STANLEY ANDREWS**  
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