

**THE SEDOO INITIATIVE FOR  
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**



**VOLUNTEER AND MENTORSHIP  
PROGRAMME**

## INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The Sedoo Initiative for Children with Special Needs-SECHILD seeks to advocate and promote the rights of children/adolescents living with special needs/disabilities, special educational needs, safety and children with disability, counselling intervention and support programmes, disability and gender based violence, mental health and re-orient people in Nigeria on cultural backgrounds to change communities through the understanding of children living with special needs and persons with disability. By transforming the lives of children with special needs and persons with disability in Nigeria. SECHILD with the help of volunteers make strides towards creating a world where children with special needs and adults with disabilities achieve their maximum potentials.

Volunteering for special needs is a highly rewarding and challenging experience at the same time. Especially in Nigeria, children and adults with special needs/mental health or physical disabilities are often overlooked by the government and do not receive the care and support they need.

Volunteers are an intrinsic part of the SECHILD family, enriching the lives of SECHILD's children with their enthusiasm and love. SECHILD has a multitude of volunteer opportunities to meet each individual's skill set, preferences, and availability.

### **Join the special needs volunteer programme at SECHILD to change this!**

Special needs volunteering include many different aspects like childcare, assisting in therapy, teaching special education lessons, advocating for the rights of children with specials, adolescents and persons living with disability, and fundraising amongst others. Volunteers can use their specific skills and gain valuable experience.

### **Take action, help those with disabilities and volunteer for special needs.**

SECHILD's vision is ***“improved well-being of vulnerable children and their caregivers in the society”***

To achieve this goal SECHILD has in place strategies and is implementing programs and projects that will positively transform the lives of children with special needs, adolescents and women. One of the ways to do this is by creating tailored support to empower them in the direction in life and to be fully integrated into the society through the path of realizing their potentials. The organization strongly believes that every child or individual with disability is unique and has his/her own challenges and support needs.

When children with special needs, adolescents, women and youth are empowered with information, skills and given the right items that could improve the quality of their daily lives, they will in turn impact positively on the communities in which they live.

SECHILD Volunteer and Mentorship Programme gives the correct orientation on the opportunity to acquire information and skills to realize their potentials and positively transform communities.

**Do you like working with children?**

**Do you like making a difference with children with special needs/persons with disability?**

Then volunteering at SECHILD is perfect for you!

## **GOAL OF THE VOLUNTEER AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

The goal of this programme is to assist communities address development challenges through volunteer service

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE VOLUNTEER AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

- Equip volunteers with community development skills
- Provide guidance to volunteers on designing and implementing community development projects
- Assist volunteers to build a career in the development sector
- Provide a platform for volunteers to create the impact they desire in communities

## **HOW THE VOLUNTEER AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME WORKS**

i. The Volunteer and Mentorship Programme is **A NON-PAID VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME**. This means that **SECHILD WILL NOT PAY ANY VOLUNTEER FOR JOINING THE PROGRAMME**. It is assumed that anyone who applies for the volunteer programme does so **NOT BECAUSE S/HE IS LOOKING FOR A PAID EMPLOYMENT, BUT BECAUSE S/HE HAS PASSION AND/OR SKILL TO POSITIVELY IMPACT COMMUNITIES AND JUST NEEDS A PLATFORM OR A MOTIVATION TO ENGAGE**.

**ii. Application-** This programme is opened only for persons (from 18 years) who are willing to volunteer in areas that are in line with our thematic areas of work:

## **Advocacy for Disabled Children/Persons, Special Educational Needs, Rehabilitation, Intervention and Support Programmes, Disability and Mental Health Support, Disability and Gender Based Violence.**

SECHILD will involve volunteers in her activities to enable them gain practical experience when and where necessary. Where necessary;

- Participants will enjoy training opportunities organized by SECHILD or her partners to build their knowledge and capacities
- Volunteers who have shown commitment, creativity and innovation can be recommended for employment in development organizations.
- Volunteers will have the opportunity to build their career in the development sector and bring positive changes they desire in communities.

**Certification** – At the end of the 1 year of the programme, volunteers will be issued with certificates of participation in the programme and outstanding volunteers will be presented with awards and certificates of outstanding performance.

### **BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME TO THE ORGANIZATION**

**SECHILD volunteer** programme will contribute to the achievement of the organization's vision of ***improved well-being of vulnerable children and their caregivers in the society.***

Through this programme, SECHILD could discover creative, talented and goal-oriented individuals who would join her team to work towards achieving the organization's objectives, mission and vision.

#### **Designing and implementing community development projects**

After one year of training, volunteers are expected to design and implement community development projects. Volunteers who are already experienced can develop projects anytime. The projects will be designed and implemented with the guidance and approval of the organization. SECHILD however has no responsibility to fund these projects in anyway as the organization expects volunteers to devise means of mobilizing different kinds of resources for this. SECHILD will however provide all the necessary technical support, guidance and the linkages needed to implement community development projects.

Community development projects can be designed and implemented by individual volunteers or different volunteers can come together to design and implement projects and programmes.

Projects must align with SECHILD's thematic areas of work – **Advocacy for Disabled Children/Persons, Special Educational Needs, Rehabilitation, Intervention and Support Programmes, Disability and Mental Health Support, Disability and Gender Based Violence.**

**NO** volunteer will be allowed to design and implement projects/programmes using the name of the organization without approval from SECHILD.

**Discipline** – Volunteers are to be of good behavior.

- No volunteer should use the platform of the organization volunteer programme to extort money from individuals or organizations. Any volunteer who wants to mobilize resources for a particular development cause should inform SECHILD and receive endorsement before doing so.

If it is discovered that a volunteer is involved in unwholesome activities, such a volunteer will be disengaged from the programme

- Volunteers must respect clients, treat them in a dignified, responsible, patient and tolerant manner, refrain from discriminating and respect for individual difference

**Dress Code:** Volunteers must arrive dressed appropriately for the work they will be performing. The organization's dress code exists to protect volunteer's safety, follow safety standards and show respect to our clients. Volunteers arriving dressed inappropriately may not take part in activities unless proper accommodation is made.

Age Restrictions: There are no age restrictions but an individual must be from 18 years of age

**Food Preparation:** The kitchen dress code is critical to ensure the safety of our volunteers as well as to preserve the quality of the food.

**Volunteers must wear:**

- I. Close-toed shoes
- II. Clothing that completely cover the chest, shoulders, underarms, torso and knees
- III. Hairnets (provided by SECHILD) or a hat/cap (brought by the volunteer)
- IV. Gloves and aprons (provided by SECHILD).
- V. No bracelets, watches or dangly earrings
- VI. Long sleeves must be pushed above elbows while working with the food and children
- VII. Clothing must not portray themes related to alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, sex or violence or political statements
- VIII. Casual attire is appropriate

- **Sharing of Personal Information:** Volunteers are asked not to share personal contact details such as home or email addresses, phone numbers, or social media information with community members while volunteering on their return home.
- **Social Media Participation:** Volunteers may not participate in any type of social media with community members. Volunteers may share their personal experience at SECHILD via social media but may NOT include photos and names of any community members
- **Sharing of Community Information:** All personal information about community members is strictly confidential except when a community member shares information about matters with legal consequences such as someone being in danger or endangering others. In this case volunteers must report the information to the staff person in charge immediately
- **Conduct:** The organization operates in a violent-free, alcohol-free and drug-free environments. Volunteers are not to smoke, drink, use drugs or carry any type of weapons at the center or fields.
  - Volunteers are to engage in gracious and edifying conversations and are to avoid swearing or cursing at the center or in the fields
  - Harassment of any kind is not permitted and will be subject to disciplinary action.
  - Volunteers are not allowed to use the organization's phones, stationery, supplies or equipment for purposes not specifically related to the volunteer opportunity.
- **Outside activities:** Volunteers are not authorized to identify themselves with SECHILD or attempt to use their position to gain credibility for political purposes or illicit personal gain
- **Legal/ Photo Release:** Before volunteering at SECHILD, individuals are asked to sign a release form acknowledging the activities and conditions of volunteering.





SECHILD Volunteers pose for a group photograph

