

## **DODOMA CHRISTIAN MEDICAL CENTRE**

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION**

Thank you for your interest in serving with the Dodoma Christian Medical Centre in Dodoma, Tanzania. Your talents and skills can make a significant difference to the people of Dodoma and the surrounding area. You are warmly invited to consider whether this opportunity for service is a fit with your interests and skills. The Dodoma Christian Medical Centre, Trust (DCMC) is a nonprofit, Lutheran-founded, ecumenical medical center located in Dodoma, Tanzania. Its mission is to witness to God's love by providing sustainable quality health care to the body and soul of the people of central Tanzania.

The ability of DCMC to make strides in improving the health care in the Dodoma area is enhanced through the service of dedicated volunteers who contribute their medical, dental and technological skills and talents. Volunteers who fit specific needs of DCMC as it expands and builds will be gratefully considered for service. From time to time, open volunteer positions will be posted on the websites of DCMC ([www.dcmc.org](http://www.dcmc.org)) and Dodoma Tanzania Health Development Inc. (DTHD) the U.S. affiliate of DCMC ([www.dthd.org](http://www.dthd.org)). Volunteers who meet an immediate need will be considered. In addition to possessing the skills being sought by DCMC, DCMC seeks volunteers who:

- resonate with the vision and mission of DCMC,
- see their work as a calling,
- are flexible, willing and able to adjust to many unexpected changes, and
- are financially able to assume all personal costs incurred.

DCMC discourages volunteers who:

- see this as primarily an opportunity to experience Africa,
- have little or no experience in a relevant field of expertise, or
- are not comfortable working or fully participating in a Christian environment, including daily staff devotions.

#### **Process/Requirements:**

1. You complete and submit an Application to:  
Dodoma Christian Medical Centre  
c/o Dodoma Tanzania Health Development Inc.  
8085 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 203  
Minneapolis, MN 55426
2. If you are selected for interview, you will be contacted by a representative of DCMC for one or more personal interviews.
3. Prior to final approval for service and before the volunteer service may commence, the following additional documents must be obtained and provided to DCMC:
  - a. Proof of health insurance and evacuation insurance coverage during period of service.
  - b. A Physical Examination form, signed by your physician, based on examination made within the last 6 months, revealing no medical

- conditions deemed unacceptable in DCMC's discretion, and evidence of the minimum recommended vaccinations.
- c. Emergency contact information.
  - d. Two letters of reference, including one from an associate in your profession or professional colleague.
  - e. Current letter from the chief of staff documenting your medical and surgical privileges (for physician volunteers).
  - f. Copy of round trip air ticket (when purchased following final approval of service).
4. If selected for service, you will be asked to sign a Volunteer Service Agreement.
  5. It will be your responsibility to obtain a valid passport and tourist or work visa, as required.
  6. Acceptance for volunteer service depends on your eligibility for appropriate medical licensure by Tanzanian authorities. Application for licensure will be facilitated by DCMC, but may require additional documentation from you.

### **Performance of Services:**

You will perform such services, and only such services, as may be determined by the Director or his delegate, and will perform such services consistent with applicable agreements. Your relationship with DCMC shall be regarded legally to be that of an independent contractor, not an employee.

### **Health Considerations:**

1. As stated above, approval for volunteer service is dependent upon the results of a physical examination deemed acceptable to the Director. The closest available western standard hospital is located in Dar es Salaam (6 hour drive) or Nairobi (3 hour flight) from the city of Dodoma. Disqualification from service may include insulin-dependent diabetes, chronic heart conditions, asthma, those with severe allergic reactions and those with a history of depressive disorders requiring treatment.
2. Vaccinations. Evidence of the following vaccinations will be required: Hepatitis A, hepatitis B, tetanus booster, meningococcal, yellow fever, typhoid. Rabies vaccine is strongly recommended for any stay longer than three months, but due to its cost is not recommended for shorter visits. Volunteers need to be on an acceptable antimalarial regime because of the high incidence of malaria in Tanzania. Recommendations include: doxycycline, larium, or malarone. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to seek out the services of a travel clinic recognized by the ASTMH & or CDC. Necessary vaccinations may require to be started at least two months before departure.
3. Emergency dental care is available on site.
4. An adequate supply of prescription medications for the duration of your stay as well as a backup pair of prescription glasses are a must.

### **Passports and Visas**

Volunteers are responsible for obtaining a valid passport and visa at their own cost. Passports are valid for 10 years after issue. Any stay under 3 months typically qualifies for a tourist visa which may be either obtained at the airport upon arrival in Tanzania, or from the Tanzanian embassy in the US. In such cases, only tourism should be mentioned as the purpose of the visit. However, if your volunteer work will involve patient care, either directly or through supervision, you may need to apply for a work visa instead of a tourist visa. Also, longer stays may require a work permit. Please check with the DCMC Director if there is any question. Obtaining a work visa may take 6 to 12 months of paperwork and must be obtained before entering the country. For those staying longer than three months, a residency visa must be obtained at least six months in advance of departure. Passports and residency visas should be kept in a safe upon arrival in TZ. Carry only photocopies of each while in country.

### **Accommodations**

In most cases, accommodation in the DCMC guest housing will be available and will be provided for a nominal cost.

### **Transportation**

Volunteers are responsible for making their own international travel arrangements at their own expense, using an agency that is familiar with travel to Africa. Round trip tickets should be purchased and a copy provided to DCMC. International flights should terminate in Dar Es Salam or the Arusha area airport (KIA).

### **Project Closure**

Prior to departure from Dodoma, volunteers involved in a project should finalize reports, return all project equipment, and settle finances with the appropriate DCMC representative. Following return to the U.S., volunteers are asked to provide a written report describing their experiences to DCMC and DTHD. These reports are very useful to program organizers, funders and potential volunteers.

*We ask your permission to hold you in prayer during your time of service.*

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NAME

## VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Thank you for considering volunteer service to the Dodoma Christian Medical Centre. The ability of DCMC to make strides in improving the health care in the Dodoma area is enhanced through the service of dedicated volunteers who contribute their medical, dental and technological skills and talents. If you have an interest in helping DCMC fulfill its mission through volunteer service, we encourage you to complete this application.

We are interested in learning more about you. Please answer these questions, either below or on a separate sheet of paper:

Describe in what ways you personally resonate or identify with the vision and mission of DCMC.

What services do you desire to provide at DCMC?

What prior experience do you have that suits you for this specific mission?

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Expir. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of  
Employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of years: \_\_\_\_\_  
Degrees completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Licenses: \_\_\_\_\_  
Specialty certification: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current hospital &  
Surgical privileges: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Past Volunteer  
Experience (dates and places):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Desired length of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Any medical concerns/conditions: \_\_\_\_\_