

→ In ten years over a thousand young people have performed voluntary civilian service with Unis-Cité amongst them...

Unis-Cité

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Tiana,  
24 yo,  
corps member  
in Lyon

Last year, Tiana worked at a call center for an insurance company. By the end of her contract there, she wanted to “completely change (her) viewpoint and do something truly useful for a year.” And so she decided to devote nine months to service through Unis-Cité in Lyon. With her team of corps members, she is currently completing a housing project with Aralis (Rhône-Alpes Association for Housing and Social Integration). The project involves the preparation of a common room with different areas (for games, reading, TV etc.) so that the hundred inhabitants of the residence can have a place to come together. “It’s very tangible, and above all it will remain after we leave,” she adds. Though her professional aspirations are still in the planning stages, she knows that she would like to work as an advisor. Above all she would like to continue to be useful to society, because Unis-Cité has given her, “even more motivation to spend her time in an associative environment”



Oumou,  
21 yo,  
corps member  
in Ile de France

Oumou lives in Torcy and became familiar with Unis-Cité through her Youth Information Center. She became involved because in her life “there was plenty of good will but little action.” According to her, Unis-Cité can provide, “a certain satisfaction and above all a true understanding of oneself.” Before Unis-Cité, Oumou had already been socially involved through a humanitarian expedition to Benin and in evening classes at a Youth Culture Center. Oumou is a bearer of a BAC and after several fixed term contracts in the sales sector, she expressed interest in volunteering with the intention of then taking examinations in nursing. Over the course of her nine months at Unis-Cité, every Tuesday Oumou went to visit two senior citizens who wanted to converse and have a relationship with a young corps member. These weekly encounters along with personal support (resumé writing, and interviews) given by the supervisory team at Unis-Cité allowed her to accomplish her aspirations of being professionally employed supporting disabled people.



Vanessa,  
24 yo,  
volunteer in Ile  
de France

After a University Degree in Technology with a concentration in Networking and Telecommunications and several business ventures, Vanessa decided to redefine herself with a humanitarian career. She wanted to commit herself to volunteerism and, “to make herself useful”; her encounters with associative environments and her motivation to discover these environments pushed her to take a chance and give nine months of her life to Unis-Cité. Through Unis-Cité, she hopes to gain the field experience necessary to create an association that gives aid to orphans. Over the course of the past nine months at Unis-Cité, and her work with six partner organisations, Vanessa has had the chance to work with African women infected with AIDS as well as with elderly shut-ins, children from problematic neighborhoods, and even radical environmental organisations.