



## What would I be doing?

Joining a team of 15-20 like-minded people to look after 80-100 children for a whole week, Saturday to Saturday. From getting them up in the mornings to telling them bedtime stories at night and entertaining them in between, you will be with the children all day except for your own mealtimes and breaks. Managing football teams, helping to build sandcastles, painting pictures or collecting crabs, judging competitions or simply being a friendly face, there's a role for everyone. And for every volunteer that signs up, we can take eight more children on holiday.



"One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different, because I was important in the life of a child."

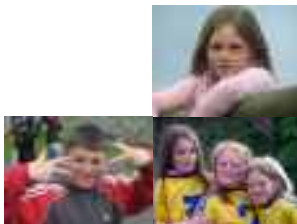
—Forest Witcraft

## Yes! I want to help...

If you want to join us in making a difference, please:

- Ring: 01-819 8431  
(Tuesday/Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM April to September)
- Email: [sunshine@svpdublin.ie](mailto:sunshine@svpdublin.ie)
- Write to: The Sunshine Fund,  
SVP House,  
91-92 Seán MacDermott Street,  
Dublin 1.
- Website: [www.sunshinefund.ie](http://www.sunshinefund.ie)

**Do it now!**



**75 YEARS OF**  **HOLIDAYS!**

# The Sunshine Fund



Want to give children from disadvantaged areas the holiday of a lifetime?



## Want to make a difference?

With the economic downturn, we're all feeling the pinch, but some are affected much more than others. Children are most at risk of being left behind, especially if they're living in areas of disadvantage. It's for them that The Sunshine Fund exists: we're trying to make a difference to the most vulnerable in our community.

Every summer, our team of volunteers provides holidays to over 1,200 children from disadvantaged areas across the city. For some, it's the only holiday they'll ever get; for others, it's a short respite from poor social circumstances; for all of them, it's a chance to forget about daily living and make friends, play, sing and dance in a happy, safe and fun-filled environment.

Will you give one week of your summer to make a difference to a child's life? Will you join us?

## Who are we?

The Sunshine Fund is a unique part of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Ireland. Since 1935, we have been providing summer holidays free-of-charge to children aged between 7 and 11 from disadvantaged areas across Dublin and neighbouring counties at our holiday centre in Balbriggan—a small seaside town north of Dublin city. More recently, thanks to the efforts of our team of volunteers, we have also been able to invite children from further afield.



## Sunshine House

Sunshine House, our purpose-built holiday centre, is only 300m from the sea and is surrounded by 5 acres of grounds. Outside, children can play on the football pitches, basketball court, swings, slides, or play equipment.

If it's raining, we organise activities indoors, where our sports hall, concert hall and top-of-the-range play centre, opened by President Mary McAleese, give plenty of space for the children to play all day.

## Our volunteers

Our volunteers are ordinary people from all different walks of life: some are students, some are retired, some were in Sunshine themselves as children. Different backgrounds, but with many things in common: an interest in young people, an ability to listen to them, a desire to provide them with the best holiday we can and a willingness to give them our undivided positive attention.

A week in Sunshine House is extremely rewarding; waving goodbye to the children as they return home is frequently sad, but leaves you with a sense of satisfaction. Seeing shy, timid young people open up as the week progresses, seeing aggressive children soften and calm down, and seeing the difference Sunshine can make to children and adults alike is what keeps volunteers coming back.