

## Ministry Opportunity in Yaounde, Cameroon

### Hostel parents serving students at Rain Forest International School



*UBAC Hostel (above) which is next door to Rain Forest International School (left).*

Rain Forest International School (RFIS) is a private Christian secondary school located in Yaounde, Cameroon. Founded cooperatively by several missions, the school serves the children of missionaries from central Africa as well as local Cameroonian students. Though the school is not a boarding school, there are many students whose parents work outside of Yaounde, and who therefore must board during the school year. To provide housing and care for these students, various missions have established “hostels” where up to 12 students, ranging from grades 7 – 12, live under the care of a married couple, referred to as “hostel parents”. Though it is a sort of dorm, the emphasis is on creating a family atmosphere for the students.

At the moment, one of these hostels known as UBAC\* has no couple to serve in the position of hostel parents for the 2015-16 school year. They are looking for a couple who would be interested in filling this role for at least one school year—or possibly two if the need arose. Following is a description of the type of people needed for the job.

Devoted followers of Jesus Christ with a heart for helping young people grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Enjoy teenagers and have had experience with them (preferably having (had) teenagers of their own at some point).

Energetic, organized and creative.

Able to organize the day-to-day activities involved in operating and maintaining the home, ensuring smooth operation and a happy, homelike atmosphere

Able to drive a stick-shift vehicle (at least one spouse).

Having some background in French would be a plus, but not absolutely necessary.

Would love a rewarding experience in Africa that serves multiple missions in several countries.

The couple would need to arrive in Yaounde, Cameroon as soon as possible this summer. School begins Thursday August 6, so students would arrive in the hostel early that week. However, the sooner the hostel parents are able to arrive in Yaounde, the more time they would have to adjust and organize prior to the start of the year. The school year then ends in June. It is helpful for the hostel parents to stay around at least one week after that to wrap up things in the hostel.

The couple would need to raise their own support for the year. Though there is not an exact budget laid out, it would need to at least include the following:

- Roundtrip airfare to Yaounde, Cameroon.

- Visa/paperwork for travel.

- \$4000/person for living in the hostel. This would cover food, lodging, utilities, and transport relating to hostel need.

- The cost of food during the school breaks (this is not covered by the \$4000).

- Personal spending money for anything they do beyond the hostel.

In addition, the couple would need to arrange for their own health insurance needs.

If you would be interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact Brad and Maria Festen who are Rez missionaries serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Their own teenage daughters, Christina and Kylie, have lived at the UBAC hostel for several years and attended Rain Forest International School. So the whole family can answer your questions! They are currently living in Wheaton, IL.

Contact information:

[brad\\_festen@sil.org](mailto:brad_festen@sil.org)

[maria\\_festen@sil.org](mailto:maria_festen@sil.org)

Home phone: (630)690-3215

\*The name UBAC stands for Ubangi Academy. There is a historical explanation for why the hostel carries this name. If you are curious...ask!

**Below is a formal job description detailing all of the responsibilities of the hostel parents.**

Hostel Parents – Job Description – Written August 1995 Revised a little March 2009

**Key Result Area # 1: Physical Environment**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. The hostel is prepared for the arrival of new students and cleaned at the end of the school year.
- b. Nutritious and well-balanced meals are provided.
- c. Items necessary for the smooth operation of the hostel are purchased in a timely manner.
- d. The hostel is kept in good repair.
- e. Maintenance needs beyond the hostel parents' capabilities are reported and corrected promptly.
- f. The hostel vehicle is maintained.
- g. Furnishings and appliances are maintained and replaced as needed.
- h. Hostel parents plan special events, parties, and functions as they deem necessary/
- i. The exterior of the hostel is attractively maintained.

**Key Result Area # 2: Employees**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. Employees are supervised in gardening, cleaning the hostel, food preparation, and guarding.

**Key Result Area # 3: Scholastic Achievement of Residents**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. Hostel parents meet and/or communicate with teachers, residents' parents, and school administrators to discuss residents' needs as necessary.
- b. Students are encouraged and supervised in their study time.
- c. Adequate study materials are available at the hostel.
- d. Progress reports and report cards are reviewed with students.

**Key Result Area # 4: Spiritual Vitality**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. Home devotions occur a minimum of 4 times a week.
- b. The hostel attends a weekly church service.
- c. The hostel will attend youth group 2 times a month.
- d. Students are encouraged to have daily quiet times.

**Key Result Area # 5: Health and Safety**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. The hostel parents will keep a record of residents' injuries and illnesses.
- b. First aid supplies will be kept at the hostel.
- c. Appropriate health care is available to residents as needed.
- d. Residents are encouraged to participate in activities other than scholastic studies.
- e. Parents are informed of health needs of their child.

**Key Result Area # 6: Residents' Relation to their Environment**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. The appearance of hostel residents (i.e., hair length, clothing, etc.) meets school requirements.
- b. Residents are assisted in the maintenance of their clothing and other personal possessions.

- c. Residents are encouraged to keep their room neat and in order.
- d. Transportation is provided for school and hostel activities.
- e. Residents' misbehavior is disciplined in accordance with the guidelines found in the hostel handbook.

#### **Key Result Area # 7: Finances**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. Monthly financial reports for the hostel are turned in to the accountant.
- b. Annual budget request are developed and properly submitted to the hostel committee.
- c. Residents' allowances or spending money are distributed according to their parents' wishes.

#### **Key Result Area # 8: Relationships and Communications**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. Hostel parents attend hostel committee meetings.
- b. Students are reminded to write to their parents regularly.
- c. Hostel parents correspond as necessary with students' parents.
- d. Hostel parents encourage parents to spend time at the hostel when they are in town.
- e. Hostel parents are available to meet with residents to discuss personal matters when necessary.
- f. Hostel parents encourage and praise residents as needed.

#### **Key Result Area # 9: Hostel Parents' Vitality**

The objectives for this area will be satisfactorily met when:

- a. Hostel parents maintain a healthy personal spiritual life.
- b. Hostel parents pray for the residents.
- c. Hostel parents take one evening a week off by themselves.
- d. Hostel parents take one weekend a month off.