



**PILA**

**The Pedagogical Institute of Los Angeles**

PO Box 26066, Los Angeles, CA 90026 | [thinkwithus.org](http://thinkwithus.org)

## **Information for New Nesters**

One Happy Family Community Center (OHF) and the Pedagogical Institute of Los Angeles (PILA) thank you for your interest. We are looking forward to welcoming you soon!

### **Before your arrival**

We ask you to arrive during a weekend. This will allow you to settle in and explore the city before the orientation meeting for new volunteers on Monday morning.

2 weeks prior to your departure please inform us ([volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org](mailto:volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org)) about your arrival date in Mytilini.

### **Costs**

We ask our volunteers to cover their costs for the shuttles to and from the community center, coffee, tea and the lunch that everyone eats at OHF. The contribution is 5€ per working day. Please give your contribution in cash to our shift coordinators on site on the day of your arrival. Please budget additional expenses for your dinner, group nights out at a tavern or trips on your free days. For a shared dinner at a tavern in Mytilini you pay about 10 to 15€.

### **Packing**

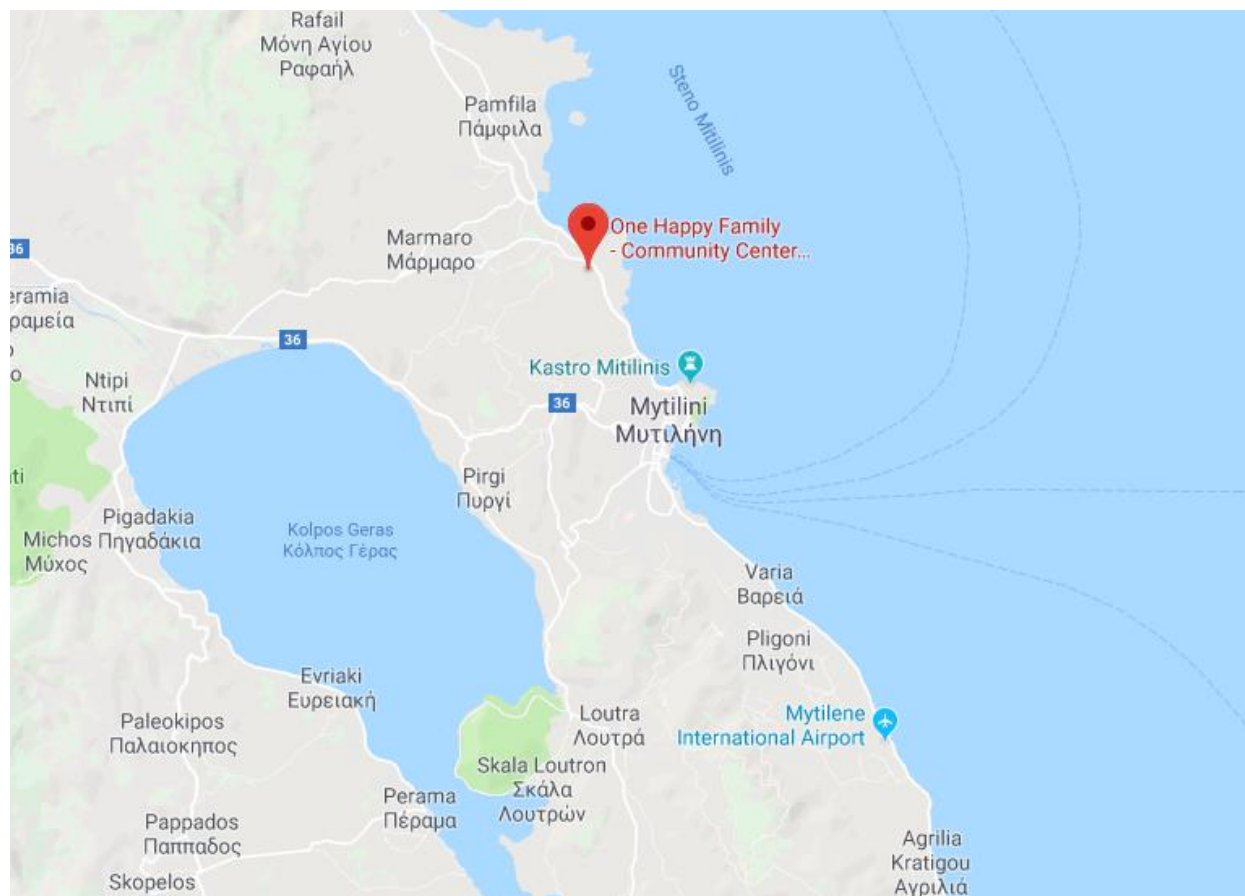
While packing your bag, please make sure that you pack appropriate clothes. Since we work with people from different cultures, bring clothes that cover shoulders and knees and that are not too revealing. Note that the summer months can be extremely hot, so please bring comfortable and light working clothes. In addition, we suggest solid shoes and a reusable coffee cup and drinking bottle.

### **Arrive informed!**

We advise our volunteers to be informed about the current refugee crisis before their arrival. We will prepare you for your work at OHF in the orientation meeting. Nevertheless, it is essential for you to know about the bigger picture of your work and contribution.

Please note that One Happy Family is depending on private donations and operating in a fragile environment. In the unlikely case that the project should unexpectedly close for financial or situational reasons, we will support you in finding another organization on Lesbos.

## Your arrival



## **Flight & Ferry**

There are several flights a day to MJT (Mytilini) in summer. You will probably have an intermediate stop at Athens Airport. The airport is located a few kilometers outside of Mytilini. The cost for a taxi from the airport to the city center is approximately 10€.

In case you have a layover at Athens airport and want to visit the city, have a look at [Public transportation in Athens](#).

If you travel via ferry from Piraeus, Kavala or one of the surrounding islands, check this article: [Travelling to and from Lesbos by Ferry](#).

Please get in contact with us before your departure ([volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org](mailto:volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org)) if you have any questions.

## **During your stay**

### **Internet**

A lot of the communication on the ground is via WhatsApp. Therefore we ask you to have internet wherever you are. You can purchase a plan from your carrier that provides international voice, texting and data or buy a Greek SIM for your mobile. SIMs are obtainable in every mobile store in Mytilini and cost about 10€ per month.

### **Schedule**

We start every morning at 10:30 with the shuttle to OHF and return to the city center at around 19:30. At the community center, we meet at 10:50 for planning the day and discussing the pending tasks together with our shift coordinators. On Saturdays and Sundays OHF is closed.

### **Self-awareness**

At the orientation meeting you will also get to know our volunteer guidelines and discuss the challenges of humanitarian work. The aim of the meeting is to protect our volunteers and ensure the quality of our community center.

We always try to support our volunteers as much as possible. Nevertheless, we can't have our eyes and ears everywhere, so we ask you to trust your instincts and seek help if needed. We work in an environment in which people could lose their patience and their hope. Please contact the shift or volunteer coordinator if you feel uncomfortable, insecure or overstrained by any situation.

## **After your departure**

### **Awareness work**

Volunteering doesn't end with your departure. By sharing your experience with friends and family, you raise awareness for the situation on Lesbos in your home country. You can organize public talks (e.g. in your community, university and among your friends), use your social media and one-to-one talks. By familiarizing yourself with the harsh reality for refugees in Greece, you enabled yourself to make an impact and inspire people to follow your example. In fact, most of our volunteers started because a friend told them about our work.

Please get in touch for any material or other support for your awareness work! You can also download presentation material from our server via this link: <https://drive.ohf-lesvos.org/s/adPbm6GQTCNNWrz>

For any further questions please contact us at [alise@thinkwithus.org](mailto:alise@thinkwithus.org) or [volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org](mailto:volunteer@ohf-lesvos.org).

Thank you for your commitment to this project!