

# Helping at a hospital



Every year many young people finish school and then take a year off before they start work or go to college. Some of them go to other countries and work as volunteers. Volunteers give their time to help people. For example, they work in schools or hospitals, or they help with conservation.

Mike Coleman is 19 and lives in Omaha, Nebraska, in the United States. He wants to become a teacher, but now he's living in Namibia. He's working in a hospital near Katima Mulilo. He says, "I'm working with the doctors and nurses here to help sick people. I'm not a doctor but I can do a lot of things to help. For example, I help carry people who can't walk. Sometimes I go to villages in the mobile hospital, too. There aren't many doctors here so they need help from people like me. I don't get any money, but that's OK, I'm not here for the money."

"I'm staying here for two months, and I'm living in a small house with five other volunteers. The work is hard and the days are long, but I'm enjoying my life here. I'm learning a lot about life in southern Africa, and about myself! When I finish the two months' work, I want to travel in and around Namibia for three weeks. For example, I want to see the animals in the Okavango Delta in Botswana."

Give any examples you can of people who do "volunteer work" (work you do without being paid).

Mark the statements *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Mike usually lives in Nebraska.
- 2 Mike is studying to become a doctor.
- 3 Mike is unhappy because he doesn't get any money.
- 4 Mike is living in a house with five other people.
- 5 Mike wants to go home when he finishes his work.

Answer the questions.

- 1 Why does Mike like what he is doing?
- 2 Say three places in the world where you would like to work as a volunteer.
- 3 Give an example of: a) volunteer work you would like to do; b) volunteer work you would not like to do.