

## Who volunteers in Coventry and why

a snap shot of volunteers registered with  
Voluntary Action Coventry April 2016 – March 2017

*I am a 50 year old woman, who currently lives in a refuge due to domestic violence and abuse. I am trying to rebuild my life and would like to be considered for voluntary work. I have a good understanding of life and peoples troubles particularly around drug use, homelessness and Domestic Violence an Awareness*

*My name is Anna and I am from Poland. I came to the UK five years ago and since then I have been working at the same place. In the last five years I have completed a few different courses and improved my English. I believe that it can help me to find a better job than the one I have in a warehouse. When I lived in Poland I worked at a petrol station, a pub, a restaurant, a shop and a bank and I am sure I can use those skills in a new job. The only thing I need is the experience in an English workplace.*

*I am looking to get back in to work after taking a break to raise my children. Now that they are older I have more time to start looking for work but would like to do some volunteering to help me gain the experience I need in the areas I'm interested in working in.*

*I am multi-lingual and can speak fluently in German and English. In the past I have worked as a football coach supporting children between the ages of 9-10 years old, I did this as I enjoy being a part of the learning development journey and being a positive influence to younger people. I love to inspire people with my ideas but also like to listen to other views and ideas. I am now seeking for a challenge that will utilize my passion and interest in supporting young people and will also allow me to develop new skills and experiences.*

*I am a 44 years old male asylum seeker. I was a banker and a business manager in Nigeria with over 14 years of cognate experience before coming to the UK in 2012. I am a graduate in Business Administration and have attended several courses and training sessions. I have the ability to adapt to any working environment easily and settle into any role and team am assigned to work with. I have a medical condition (kidney failure) which requires me to attend dialysis 3 times a week (Tues, Thurs and Saturdays) for 4 hours each session. However, this does not in any way impair my ability or my determination to deliver on any assignment or duties am responsible for.*

*I'm interested in volunteering because:*

- *I am new to the area and are looking to get to know people*
- *Want to make a positive change in my local area and the lives of those around me*
- *Have the chance to develop myself outside of the work setting*
- *Widen my horizon*

*I have experience of volunteering in schools and nursery's with younger children. I also did a week at the hospital as part of a college placement so have health based experience. I wish to pursue a career in nursing and wish to gain experience of volunteering with older people. I am caring and want to bring joy to other people who may not have anyone to speak to or are at disadvantage in their lives.*

*For me it's a pleasure to make this world a better place and it would be awesome to do it with or for you as a voluntary helper.*

*I am an outgoing, personable, confident person. Having been an actor and having extensive experience in customer facing roles I've gained excellent people skills and the ability to be adaptable and to cope with any given situation including high pressure and target driven environments. I'm also a recovered alcoholic/twelve step program completer with 5 years good quality sobriety.*

*I'm extremely passionate about giving back to the community. I've worked in various roles such as a senior mentor for NCS the Challenge and as a family support volunteer for Caudwell Children. My biggest passion is working with children and families, but I would also love to work with domestic violence survivors, people suffering with mental health issues and the elderly. Upon completing my undergraduate degree in Sociology, I've realised that my biggest passion is giving back to the community in numerous ways and hope to one day complete my MA in Social Work.*

*Wanting to join an organization where skills can be developed whilst building on existing experience.*

*I have worked as a shorthand typist from the age of 18 till 20 years old. I like prioritizing work, either in a team or on my own. My English writing and speaking is good as well as my Italian language. I am looking to embark back on secretarial duties and would like some refreshing up, so I would like to join your organisation as a voluntary worker in admin or somewhere closer, to gain back the skills as it has been a long time since I gave up this qualification. I have certificate in business administration level 3, which I recently gained here in the UK at Henley College*

*Currently doing an MSc in International Business at Warwick. I sell tennis rackets and used to be a comedian. Would love to be of use and provide some value.*

*Hello, I'm Heidi and I'm currently in my third year studying at Coventry University. Set to achieve a 2:1 in Linguistics, ultimately I am hoping to gain some valuable experience, meet new people and hopefully gain new skills through volunteer work.*

*I am looking for some voluntary work in Administration and gain more skills, I have my Administration Level one, one unit in Retail NVQ Level 2 and OCR Level 1 certificates for IT users (new clait). I would like to work on more skills within the Administration background.*

*I am a Hungarian Master student at University of Birmingham, but I live in Coventry as I did my Bachelor degree here and I like the city. I study Human Resource Management. I have office work experience within communication department in Hungary and in Coventry too. I would like to volunteering to improve my communication skills and to meet new people in Coventry*

*I'm currently in full time education (Year 12), studying Maths, Chemistry, Japanese and ICT. I am looking for voluntary work relatable to Accountancy. I have good planning and organising skills along with good time management skills which ables me to meet deadlines and stay in control. I have experience in interacting with customers face to face as well as over the telephone.*

*I'm looking for voluntary work to improve my existing skills and gain experience to help with finding future employment.*

*Finance working background of 9 years, I am highly competent with administration tasks. I have a Music Studies degree from Leeds university, and enjoy teaching and playing music in my spare time. I have always had an interest in the possibility of volunteering to help mentor children and care for older adults. I feel that my past personal experiences have made me a strong person and can support others with what I have learnt from my own challenges. I have personal connections with mental health (dementia, Alzheimer's, depression, anxiety), and have a medical condition of my own that I have had to somewhat adapt around but do not allow it to affect my day-to-day life.*

*I've had previous experience working as a care worker working with people who had learning disabilities. I've also done a lot of volunteer work with the elderly and people with physical disabilities*

*At the moment I am keeping an open mind to possible career paths and feel that volunteering would be a great way to help me find out what I want to do next.*

*I have a real passion for supporting people and am always willing to go the extra mile to help. My Degree in Community Regeneration and Development has given me a very good understanding of issues which effect members of our community. I have gained lots of experience of working with people from many backgrounds including Neighbourhood Action, Kenilworth Youth Centre and Allesley First Cubs. I feel drawn to support those who struggle or are isolated and have supported a downs syndrome and an autistic child. These experiences have given me the skills and a great understanding of how to give people passionate support that will help to develop them as a person.*

*I have been an attendant of the challenge NCS, which I had done some voluntary work involved, I like to think of myself as a practical person and someone that a person can easily confide in and I appreciate the fact a person is naturally comfortable within my presence.*

*I love being a part of a community and feeling like I have something to give, even if it's just a cup of tea and a chat.*

*I would like explore different voluntary opportunities and get more involved in the goings on of the community.*

*I volunteered within a Myton Hospice shop and since I stopped I've missed the joy giving something back provided me.*

*I am a Coventry University student and since I have a few days and evenings free from my studies I thought that volunteering would be the best way to spend my free time, since I have always wanted to help people in need. I gained some experience working with elderly people, while I was volunteering at retirement home a few years ago, also I enjoy spending time with kids , helping them and caring after them , I have been babysitting my cousins and while spending time with them I gained experience in how to communicate with children.*

*I am postgraduate from the University of Oxford, where I studied History. I have previous voluntary experience working for the Coventry Irish Society. I am looking for voluntary experience working with people with mental health issues, in the green energy sector and the heritage sector.*

*I am 46 with 4 grown up children and 4 grandchildren ,I have worked in counselling many years ago both in domestic violence and sexual health . I have ran my own dv group and listen and understand the problems faced by this group*

*I am Samantha and I am currently studying Politics and International Studies in Warwick University, with my main motivation being to understand the workings of the political sector so that I can work towards gearing more policies towards the welfare of those with mental health problems. I am a passionate, driven and resilient person who is always ready to learn new things and find meaning in whatever they may be so that I may carry these lessons with me. I strongly believe that everyone has something to offer, especially those who people would usually brush off, as there is a certain beauty in complexity and it only requires a non-conventional method and the installation of faith to bring that out. Nothing is more rewarding than convincing someone that they can be whatever they want to be, or that they can do whatever they want to do, or that they are worth love and recognition. I want to be able to make a difference, not so much for me and my own experiences, but because I want to make someone else believe. And I hope that I'll get the chance to do that through volunteering.*

*I have my law degree (2.1 Oxford brookes) and am looking to gain my teaching qualifications by the end of next year. I am academic and outgoing with an abundance of interpersonal skills that I have gained over the 2 years of mentoring that I have done. I have also worked in firms focusing on family, immigration and LGBTI asylum law and could potentially be of use in that respect. I also regularly help my students create CVs and provide advice on employability.*

*I believe I would be a really strong asset to any volunteering team and look forward to meeting new friends along the way.*

*I hope through volunteering to improve my confidence and skills. I'd like to establish better social contact with others that I come into contact with and if possible undertake additional training or gain further qualifications.*

*I'm currently a stay at home parent with two young children. In my previous life I obtained an English degree, and postgraduate qualifications in HR Management. I've worked in schools with teenagers; as a Teaching Assistant, assisting pupils with special educational needs, and also as a Cover teacher. I've also got 15 year's administration experience. I've travelled the world and feel like I have some strong skills to offer.*

*I am a second year sixth form student who has good listening and communication skills. Friendly and approachable and will put effort in any task given. I want to give back to the community and help in any way I can.*

*I am a caring and passionate individual looking for a volunteering role. I want to learn more about the area of work I am studying for and think I have a lot of care and kindness to offer and nothing makes me happier than knowing I have helped someone out, even in the smallest ways.*

*My name is Ahmed I'm 26 years old originally from Ethiopia. I would describe myself as friendly and enjoy being in other people's company . I was working as a nurse in my home country but unfortunately due to my asylum seeker status here in the UK I am unable to work.*

*I would like to volunteer to keep myself busy and contribute to the community. If possible I would also like to learn new skills and expand on my current ones.*

*If possible I would like to volunteer with an organisation supporting people who are in crisis or battling addiction but am open to anything admin or retail related.*

*I am a hardworking, compassionate individual who wants to reach out to the community through volunteering*

*I think volunteering time to others will help the community and be a good experience.*

*I have just returned from the Alps, working as a Chalet Host. Previously, I worked in central London as a coordinator and agent. My passions are art (I have a degree in illustration) and conservation. I am looking for a voluntary position that will allow me to combine my organisational and people skills with my interests.*

*My initial aim is to volunteer on a Saturday and then hopefully branch out a little. However I have to work around my current role.*

*I am a friendly and helpful teenager. I love to stay positive and engage with others to make them happy. I have no previous experience for volunteering, but I would like to start now and gain more confidence when communicating with others.*

*Hi all I am here to help out as have some free time. I am willing to help on anything really. I can help u and in the same way it will help me*

*I have lived in Coventry for over 20 years and am interesting in giving something back to the community. I am a full time logistics coordinator with strong organisational and administrative skills. I am also a people person and feel that I am able to connect with people on a wide range of levels with different experiences. I feel I have good communication skills and can speak French and German as well as English which is my mother tongue. As I work full time (9 until 5.30 Monday to Friday) I would only be available evenings and weekends*

*I am a confident, presentable and ambitious student currently studying at Coundon Court Sixth Form. As part of my studies, I am keen to gain some Voluntary work experience. I am an enthusiastic and hard working person eager to secure a part-time voluntary work placement.*

*As a support worker I am learning to engage with people in an appropriate manner, I have learnt to be understanding and sensitive regarding certain topics. I have previously volunteered in Nepal in a primary school for the summer and had to deal with people living in total poverty where being empathetic was vital in being able to connect to the families.*

*Hello my name is Consolata I have a passion to help out and volunteer because I believe helping out will make a difference. I have confidence that I will bring something different being part of you guys will be a dream come true because I believe through helping someone you bring a smile to their face just being part of you as a family will help me grow and learn as an individua .*

*I've been a multi drop driver for most my life due to bad health I had to leave work as I suffer with serve bronchiolitis I have a lot of time to myself what I would like to give back to the community*

*I am awesome take me to volunteer*

*I have never done this before, but I would like to try it.*

*My partner works fulltime and i am a fulltime stay at home mum to three children (15, 8 and 5) they are all now at school through the day and I really wanted to try give some of my time to my local community/city. I think volunteering is the way to go. I enjoy meeting and talking to new people (sometimes I can talk for hours)*

*I'm currently studying at Cardinal Newman Sixth form, towards A 'level Accounting, Business studies and Economics. Will have completed an AS exam in accounting by May.*

*I am a positive thinker, good listener and peoples person. I enjoy helping others and problem solving.*

*I enjoy exercising and creative activities and also enjoy being outdoors.  
I am a retired medical doctor [g p] and have nearly 40 years of medical experience dealing with the patients in my community and also worked for 2 years abroad teaching and practising medicine abroad*

*My name is Kleoparda, I have finished studying as a dentist and worked as one for 3 years in Albania. I have also been self-employed for 7 months in the same profession.*

*I am an asylum seeker and have been in the UK for just over a year and would like to start volunteering to keep myself busy and improve existing skills and potentially learn new ones.*

*I am calm and a good listener. I am a hard worker and eager to learn new things and have new experiences. I can speak Albanian, Italian, Spanish and English.*

*I have been a library assistant for 18 years. I have valuable customer service experience, important in any role and am used to dealing with people of all ages, race, abilities, gender. All are very transferable skills.*

*I can communicate effectively at all levels, am punctual, reliable and have a great willingness to learn.*

*Hi, My name's Aaron, I'm a 27 years old, I have Autism but very mild.*

*I've previously run my own business as a shopkeeper for many years. I'm looking to volunteer within a retail setting to further develop my own skills as well as provide support and give back to the community.*

*I enjoy being involved in the community, meeting new people and having new experiences. I have a good sense of humour and enjoy being around people.*

*I am interested in volunteering to help me gain the skills and experience I need to support me in finding a job in the future.*

*I have a keen interest in supporting families and individuals in crisis situations. Working with them on regular basis and forming action plans to help them get back on track.*

*I am a good at listening to people and understanding the situation they're in. I hope to utilise my existing skills to benefit the people I support and build upon those skills further.*

*I have good people skills. I'm quite athletic. I'm good with technology. I love animals. I love learning and helping others learn.*

*I have just moved from the US and have lots of experience working with people to give back what the community gives to me. I strive to make peoples lives better because life is hard enough so why make it any harder? I love talking to people and getting involved. Making other people's lives better makes my life even better.*

*A personal journey...*

*Although I am very passionate about my current job my main goal in life was always to give back to the community as I am a humanitarian at heart. Although my life now is somewhat stable, 10 years ago things were a very different story however everything that I experienced made me who I am and is the reason why I am writing to you today.*

*Growing up in Hillfields/Stoke was never dull however as I moved into my teenage years I wouldn't say I fell into the wrong crowd but my friends and I started to go down the wrong path. What started out as casual mischief quickly grew into my life being centred on drugs, violence and alcohol. I saw many things that 15 years olds shouldn't although in this day and age this is the case for many teenagers. I was often in fights with men and was even attacked and hospitalised on occasions but this still didn't stop my behaviour. Although many of the fights I got into were not caused by me; with my temper and loyalty to friends I often ended up being involved and this eventually led to me being arrested once, and then again. On the first occasion my friends and I were the innocent party and the 2nd time I once again was attacked first but instead of reporting it we fought back and was arrested and charged with assault. I was sentenced to 9 months of youth offending but even that didn't make me change, it took a breakdown after losing my Grandfather/Father that made me want to change.*

*So in 2009 I made the choice to move to London and go to college again where I excelled on my Science course and then went on to study Anthropology at Brunel University. After leaving university I managed to get well paid jobs in Central London which helped give the experience I need to get into recruitment. I am very passionate about Recruitment to the point that I have even taken online courses in Computer Science, Telecommunications and HR in my own time. Learning is something that is very natural to me from a very young age I have self-taught and researched myself many subjects including Ancient History, Mathematics/Geometry, Electromagnetism, Music, Science etc. I am able to take in large amounts of information and it doesn't require much effort and this is something that I have now translated into my work.*

*Now that I am in a position where I feel I can use my skills and past experience to help people I would like to use my time to help children who are in a similar position I was 10 years ago. Being able to speak with someone who understands and can also speak to them on their level I feel will help teens to engage more and open up. Many children want to do the right things however they have never been shown how and do not think they are capable of anything different.*