**Community Pantry volunteer – Valley Park**

**Locations:** Valley Park Community Centre, 37 Southhouse Rd, Edinburgh EH17 8EU. [**See map here.**](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Valley+Park+Community+Centre/@55.8983393,-3.1589916,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x4887b8b281cd8fc5:0xc09fc35b71de5f25!8m2!3d55.8983393!4d-3.1564167!16s%2Fg%2F1tg6pplr?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDEyNy4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D)

**Time commitment:** 9:30 – 11:30am on Thursdays.

We are flexible on how often you can volunteer. Just let us know your availability and preferences.

## **What is a community pantry?**

A [**community pantry**](https://cyrenians.scot/how-we-help/140-community-pantries) gives dignified and affordable access to a selection of chilled and ambient foods, fresh fruit and vegetables. This is instead of a foodbank model. We want to offer dignity and choice in exchange for a small subscription fee through a community pantry. They provide support to people on a low income and / or recovering from a crisis.

Having a community pantry helps people with their food costs. This also improves people’s ability to manage other debts and living costs. They increase opportunities to afford fresh fruit and vegetables and try new things. Members and volunteers lead each community pantry, and as such will be at the heart of its development, empowering themselves and the local communities.

## **What will you do as a volunteer?**

As a community pantry volunteer, you will be a part of setting up the pantry in your area. A community pantry is set up within a local community building, which we have a partnership with.

It will usually be a few tables set up on the day, which we will use for the food and drink distribution to community members.

As a volunteer, you will help:

* set up products in a safe and appropriate manner
* make sure that food is handled safely
* take payment from community members
* assist community members, where necessary
* provide a friendly and approachable service.

## **What can you gain from this volunteering opportunity?**

* Meet new people and be a part of a positive and supportive team
* Develop your interpersonal skills meeting people from all walks of life
* Learn about how a local Scottish charity engages within communities
* Grow your organisational skills
* Gain further understanding on issues and barriers for those affected by homelessness and personal crises.

## **Does this sound like you?**

Everyone is welcome to join and get actively involved with our community pantries as a volunteer.

If you…

* are over 18 years old
* enjoy engaging with people
* enjoy listening actively to people’s stories
* are friendly and easy to approach
* are reliable
* can work with individuals who may have different support needs
* do not judge and are respectful of confidentiality.

Then let us know your interest and get in touch by filling in the online form. We can then arrange a chat to get to know each other better, and we will share more information about the place and volunteering opportunity.

## **Your accessibility**

Please let us know in the online form, if you need any support or adjustments to make our first chat together and volunteering a positive experience for you.

Any expenses for helping with these activities, which have been agreed, will be paid back to you. We cover local travel costs at public transport rate, or mileage if you drive here. We provide a meal for all volunteers working over 4 hours at one time.

If you for any reason cannot fill in our online form, not to worry. Please reach out to us on our central depot number: 0131 554 3900. Ask for Michelle.

## **Keeping everyone safe**

You can read [**our safeguarding policy here**](https://cyrenians.scot/assets/000/001/672/Safeguarding_Policy_original.pdf?1729240047) that details our commitment to keeping everyone safe. It is expected of everyone to adhere to these commitments. We expect all volunteers to do relevant training, so you can help keep yourself and others safe from harm.