





COMMUNITIES RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEERS

CITY AND FARM ROLE DESCRIPTION

Cyrenians



ABOUT THE CITY AND FARM COMMUNITIES

The purpose of the Communities is to support the residents to develop their confidence, skills and abilities in order to begin to live independently and, eventually, to move to a more sustainable living environment away from personal crisis. Living with volunteers helps residents see alternative ways of coping with problems.

The Farm Community is based 10 miles from the centre of Edinburgh in a tranquil rural location. The City Community is in Leith, about 2 miles from Edinburgh City Centre. The communities are funded by contributions from social work organisations, the local council, and charitable donations.

The two Communities accommodate up to fifteen residents between them, who are aged 18-30 and come to live in the communities as a result of being homeless. Both Communities have up to six volunteers who live with the residents in the community for placements between 6 and 9 months. Volunteers are also between the ages of 18 – 30 so they can be true peers to the residents. In the City Community, volunteers are required to share rooms due to space constraints. In addition, both Communities have a small staff team who are there to support the residents.



The role of the residential peer mentor

Volunteers are peer mentors to the community residents. Volunteers and residents live within our community facility and manage the day-to-day domestic tasks and decisions within the community. The Community will also be your home.

Living in a community

As a Residential Community Volunteer, you'll be living alongside people who have experienced homelessness. You will help to create a fun, secure and stimulating space. By creating positive experiences, you will help move residents from negative experiences of the past to a positive future. You can help people develop the skills and confidence to move forward in life. Part of this experience will be learning about and understanding different cultures as you help create the community.

Our residents

This will be a stimulating and hopefully rewarding role but may also be challenging and tough at times. You will be living alongside people who may struggle to engage or may have behaviours that are challenging. They can have a range of learning difficulties, autism or mental health issues and may be dealing with trauma which can affect their behaviour. For example, this may affect how they interact with others or struggle to follow rules. We need volunteers to show patience and understanding.
You will be paired with a resident as a buddy throughout your stay.

New experiences
Living in a different culture from your own may also present challenges. This is your opportunity to learn about other people and how they live. For example, everyone has different preferences around things like food which can be very important to them. You will be expected to show understanding and be prepared to compromise in community life.
Building a relationship with residents and other volunteers can be so rewarding when they listen to you and act on your suggestions. Small changes from the volunteering t

Onboarding Period
To make sure this is the right placement for you (and for us), our onboarding process includes a trial period of 4 weeks where volunteers can have weekly supervision with a staff member to support you to settle in and to decide if the placement will go forward.

What you can expect from volunteering

Volunteers expect a broad range of experience relevant to many fields of study and professional development. During your time you can expect

· Experience of a different culture
· All accommodation and food costs are met by Cyrenians plus a weekly subsistence allowance
· Contribution towards travel expenses to the community when you first arrive
· A full induction from staff on arrival
Training and development including First Aid and Food Hygiene and other opportunities relevant to the role (see below)

·Forming a team with other volunteers to contribute to the day to day running of the community
·2 days off per week to explore and have fun
·Regular one-to-one support from staff
·Opportunity for feedback with the recruitment team during the placement and before you leave
A reference and certificate on completion of your placement



Training and development

Training and development is very important to Cyrenians, both for staff and volunteers. All volunteers attend workshops designed specifically for our volunteers on topics such as:

- boundaries
- team building
- conflict resolution
- addiction
- self-harm

There is also the opportunity to join Cyrenians-wide training and, where possible, we encourage students to attend workshops and training outside of Cyrenians as well.

There is also a Mentoring Award certification offered in partnership with our local college.

What kind of volunteers are we looking for?

- Team player
- Enthusiastic
- Fun
- Motivated
- Patient
- Tolerant
- Independent living skills
- *Please note an adequate ability to communicate well in English is essential

What are we looking for from volunteers ?

· Show acceptance, tolerance and respect for everyone in the community
· Support the residents to learn skills to become independent
· Show empathy, understanding and kindness to residents
· Willingness to listen
· Help care for the space
· Become part of a team with other volunteers and staff
· To work within a confidentiality framework
· Learn about boundaries with residents
· To be enthusiastic and optimistic for positive change and progression
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To participate in the life of the communities by:
- organising events and activities
- encouraging participation from the residents
- leading/supporting residents to food shop and cook (sometimes for all residents)

Still interested? How the recruitment process works

You have already made the first step to recruitment by reading this information. If you want to proceed with your application follow the steps below: each subsequent step is dependent upon success at the proceeding stage.

Please note that if you are applying form outside the UK you will require a Temporary Worker (Charity) visa, please get in touch for more support.
Complete an application form making specific reference to this information and the expectations we have for volunteers
· Initial interview with recruitment team and follow up meeting up with communities' staff and volunteers when possible
· References checked
· Volunteer agreement
· In-country police check (PVG) for volunteering with vulnerable groups

The end of your placement

An exit survey at the end of placement will help the volunteer to assess their contribution and personal development and give staff feedback on their perceptions of the experience. On completion of the placement volunteers are given both a certificate of thanks and reference.

Does this sound like the challenge for you?

If you're interested in volunteering with us or have any questions regarding the role please Contact at us at Communitiesplacements@Cyrenians.scot .

