



Genesis Trust Bath

Volunteering Opportunities

Our Mission

To support disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the Bath area, offering opportunities for them to make healthy choices and improve their lives and prospects.

Introduction

The Genesis Trust began when a local hairdresser, Gail Hodges, saw homeless teenagers rummaging in a bin for food. Realising that they were sleeping rough, Gail began to provide them with soup each night; and so the Bath soup run was born and which still operates today. Genesis Trust was officially set up as a charity in 1995 and since then has helped around 4,000 adults each year.

Today, the Genesis Trust is a thriving community of over 700 volunteers and staff who dedicate their time to achieving the goals of our vision and mission. Genesis employs approximately 18 people on a full or part time basis, working under a Chief Executive and a Board of Trustees. Many of the various communities of Bath and the surrounding area connect in some way with Genesis, and much of our work is done by a body of volunteers gathered from many different churches in Bath who bring their love, time and energy to help people in need. We encourage those who have sought our support to share their experience and enable them to develop their own skills, thereby contributing to the community.

We are supported by the majority of churches in Bath who provide teams of volunteers, much needed financial support and the use of their premises. We believe in collaboration and channelling passion by helping people to work together, reaching people in need in the Bath area, and helping individuals to put their faith into action. Genesis Trust is a Christian organisation, although we are strictly non-discriminatory and welcome people from all walks of life and faiths.

Genesis has expanded significantly since we started. The recent Next Step Appeal has resulted in a new Lifeline & training centre. This enables us to offer further courses and opportunities for beneficiaries and volunteers. Collaborating with local businesses, churches and the wider voluntary sector, we have established good networks around the city. We also provide courses in tandem with the Wellbeing College, Bath College, Bath Spa, the Volunteer Network and B&NES Heritage Services.

There are many levels of volunteering available, designed to suit your preference and availability. Whether you are a first-time volunteer or vastly experienced, don't be shy about asking questions. Everyone has to start on some level and we're grateful that you have taken the first step. As you scan this menu book for great volunteer opportunities, remember that the Genesis Trust is only as effective as you, our volunteer family, enabling us to be - together. Without you, we don't exist!

If you are looking to boost your CV, return to work after a period of absence from the working environment, make your first forays into the voluntary sector, be part of a fantastic team, stay connected or just serve your local community, then we have an opportunity for you.

Volunteer Activities – Level 1

Do you have an hour or two to spare every so often but are unable to make a regular commitment? Then one of the following activities might be right up your street.

1. Licenced Street Collections and Supermarket Bag Packs

Join us for a few hours to help raise money and awareness.

Involvement: Two or three hours.

2. Support our Events

Come along and help with the organisation at our events. This might be marshalling at the Bath Half, running a stall, registering participants, raising awareness or collecting money.

Involvement: a few hours or a day – whatever you can spare.

3. Soup Run

The Soup Run is organised through our local churches in Bath. If this is something you would like to be involved in, please contact your local church co-ordinator.

Involvement: Joining the local church rota as agreed.

4. Lifeskills Workshops

Do you have a talent or skill you would like to share with others? We organise one-off workshops where volunteers come and share their skills and knowledge

Involvement: 3 hours + Preparation time.

5. Supporting Lifeskills Workshops

Come along and support a workshop, helping clients to master new skills.

Involvement: 3 hours.

6. Organise a Clothing Collection

Set-up a collection point, raise awareness within your chosen group, print or distribute the items needed and arrange to bring the items to our Lifeline Centre.

Involvement: Co-ordination over a month.

7. Organise a Fundraising event

VOLUNTEER MENU BOOK

Use your organisation and publicity skills to run your own fundraising event to raise funds to support the vital work of the Genesis Trust in Bath.

Involvement: Full set-up and co-ordination of your event with the support of our expert fundraisers.

Volunteer Activities – Level 2

These volunteering options are designed for people who are able to commit their time on a regular basis.

1. Lunch Box

Do you enjoy meeting and building relationships with people? We serve meals every Monday and Wednesday lunch time at St Michael's church in the centre of Bath. We offer opportunities to take orders from our clients and/or serve tea and coffee. We plan to extend Lunch Box to five days per week in various locations.

Involvement: 3 hours per shift. (Rota is agreed on a monthly basis depending upon individual's availability).

2. Co-ordinate Food Collection from Student Accommodation

At the end of each year, the students of Bath leave their accommodation to return home. We have a role for a volunteer co-ordinator to organise the collation and collection of excess food across the student accommodation in the city on behalf of the Foodbank.

Involvement: Making contact with student's across accommodation, publishing guidance on what is and isn't suitable for collection, providing collection points and liaising with Bath Foodbank.

3. Lifeline

We have several volunteer roles at Lifeline, based at the Gateway Centre on London Road, where we provide breakfast and friendly support to the homeless and vulnerable of Bath. The centre opens Monday-Friday 1000-1200.

Involvement: Regular commitment to a shift(s).

4. Office Administration

All Genesis projects are supported by the office at South Parade. If you love organisation and order then we can always use your skills!

Involvement: From a few hours per week.

5. Furniture Project

Our established furniture project social enterprise collects donations from across the city and resells them through our shop in Oldfield Park. Volunteers are an important part of our operation, assisting with collections and helping in the shop. We operate Monday – Friday and the occasional Saturday.

Involvement: Regular commitment to a shift(s) 0900-1630.

VOLUNTEER MENU BOOK

6. Bath Foodbank

There are three opportunities associated with our Foodbank operation. These include collections from our regular donation points across the city, sorting and storing donations, picking and packing orders from our distribution centres and collation and distribution of foodbank parcels to our clients from one of our three distribution centres.

Involvement: Regular commitment to a shift(s).

7. Collection Tin Coordinator

Do you have excellent communication skills? Are you friendly and approachable and comfortable using your own initiative? The collection tin coordinator is responsible for contacting and creating relationships with businesses in the local community and asking to place collections tins on their premises, collecting and counting the contents collected.

Involvement: Approximately 2 hours per week which is completely flexible.

8. Student Ambassador

Are you a student who is passionate about supporting the homeless and vulnerable? There are many misconceptions about homelessness and mental health issues in society. Would you like to help us to raise awareness and break down these barriers amongst the student population and help others to provide the support that homeless and vulnerable people need to help them travel on a path to sustained, independent living?

Involvement: Working with Genesis to learn more about the root causes of homelessness and vulnerability; organise and take part in awareness activities at the university careers fair; utilise university media to raise awareness; co-ordinate a student group to run specific activities.

Volunteer Activities – Level 3

Volunteer roles that require the volunteer to undertake training and dedicated commitment to regular or specific time. Most of these roles require our volunteers to undertake DBS checks.

1. Street Pastor

Our Street Pastors patrol the streets of night time Bath. The Ascension Trust requires that all Street Pastor volunteers are active members of their local church.

Involvement: Commitment to one shift per month (2200 – 0300).

2. Pathways Mentor

There are four pathways mentoring streams: Home Matters, Wellbeing Matters; Work Matters and Money Matters. If you would like to support an individual to become empowered and independent and are able to commit a couple of hours a week over a year, then this is an opportunity to make a big difference to an individual. Training and ongoing supervision will be provided.

Involvement: Minimum of 2 hours a week for a year (allowing for holidays).

3. Lifeline Supervisor

Taking responsibility for a section of the drop-in centre and contributing to the management of lifeline. Training and ongoing supervision will be provided.

Involvement: Regular commitment to specific shifts.

4. Lifeskills 1:1 Sessions

Are you qualified to teach others in a fundamental skill that is needed in everyday life? We welcome volunteers who would like to give their time to share their knowledge with an individual, helping that person take the next step on their journey to independence.

Involvement: Regular 1:1 sessions with an individual.

5. Office & Operations

The Genesis office provides support and governance to all Genesis projects. Do you have experience that you would like to put to good use and a few hours to spare each week? This has proven to be an excellent route for returning to work after a period of absence. You might like to help with the vital things behind the scenes such as helping to keep our governance and compliance up-to-date, coordinating operations, managing volunteer programmes, organising training, helping with data, systems, fundraising, marketing & communications, finance, special projects and generally helping Genesis achieve excellence. (This may seem like quite a lot but there are many vital behind the

VOLUNTEER MENU BOOK

scenes activities for a charity like Genesis, so please do talk to us if there is something, whether on this list or not, that you would like to explore.)

Involvement: Regular hours each week to support our operations staff in Central Bath.

6. Project Leader

Occasionally, our amazing long-serving voluntary project leaders step down. If you are seeking a rewarding role that you can invest yourself in to make a real difference, then this would be one for you.

Involvement: Significant, but flexible time commitment to organise and run your own project.

7. Committee Member

Many of our projects have organising committees which are vital to continued smooth operations. Committees normally meet on a monthly basis. If you would like to be involved in the management and oversight activities of our projects, this could be for you.

Involvement: Attendance at regular meetings and ad hoc input to agreed actions.

8. Lunch Box

Are you a qualified chef with a Monday or Wednesday lunchtime to spare? Come along and prepare meals for our clients at St Michael's Church in Bath.

Involvement: Shift is 1130 – 1430 on a Monday or Wednesday. Rotas are agreed with the Project Leader on a monthly basis, depending upon availability.

Volunteer Activities – Corporate

1. Fundraising – Come and help us raise money for Genesis.
2. Foodbank – Special Collections. Help out for a shift at a local collection point to highlight food requirements.
3. Foodbank – Food sorting. Help sort donations and distribute overstocks.
4. Furniture Project – The Big Spring Clean.
5. Breakfast at Lifeline – Come and meet our clients over breakfast.
6. Craft-making for sale – Take part in activities to create products for us to sell to raise money.
7. Tailor-made projects – make use of your corporate skills and work with us to design your own project.
8. Horticultural Social Enterprise – coming in 2020.
9. Support for CEO.
10. Expert Advice – Does your company provide expert advice that would help support our aim to help individuals on their route to empowerment and independence? Come along and run some sessions for our client community, who may not be able to access your services.

Volunteer Activities – Student Placement

1. Tailor-made

Are you looking to work in the 3rd Sector and want to gain some experience? We are able to offer a limited number of short-term placements each year.

Involvement: From 1-2 days per week.

2. 1-year placement

There are a limited number of volunteer opportunities available each year for individuals to contribute to a range of projects, depending upon individual interests.

Next Steps

Hopefully you are now inspired and would like to find out more.

In the first instance please email Caleb Mallard, Pathways & Volunteer Manager (office@genesistrust.org.uk).

We would also encourage you to visit our website and to sign up for our regular email newsletter (this is the best way to keep up to date).

Finally, we would like to thank you for taking the time to read this. Please pass it on to your friends!

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