

Example Nomination for an Individual Special Recognition Award

Jane Doh

Retail Volunteer, Marie Curie

Charity Shop Volunteer

Jane began her dedication to Marie Curie at the Edinburgh Hospice. With her talent in music, she has given her time to staff, patients, families, and visitors. She plays the piano not only to delight but also to bring comfort and contribute to the calm and peace in an environment where people are apprehensive about their futures and prognosis.

When COVID social distancing restrictions prevented her from doing this, she actively looked for other opportunities to help and donate her time to others. During a period where people felt unprepared, uncertain, cautious, and afraid of the COVID pandemic. Jane joined the Marie Curie Morningside Charity Shop Team and continued to inspire. She helped to keep the shop floor tidy, clean, and secure.

When the Marie Curie Trinity Shop was due to reopen after a renovation. She again supported us in setting up the shop and then stayed to volunteer in the Trinity Shop as well as Morningside. Using her skills in art and craft, she created visually stunning displays with donated items while being challenged with limited props and resources. She has captivated passers-by and customers with her attention to detail and window exhibits with originality and colourful presentation. During non-essential shop closures her inventive window displays in the Trinity Shop became a place for people to visit and browse.

Jane's fearless spirit and willingness to help others has kept both Marie Curie Charity shops open as well as giving hope and promise with her music to people in the Marie Curie Hospice. Her innovative ideas and creative flair continue to engage and inspire everyone. Jane's depth of compassion, commitment and creations has truly made the lives of people better. Her unwavering acts of thoughtfulness, positivity and kindness brighten each day. It is a joy and a pleasure to know her and an honour to work with her.

Joe Bloggs, Retail Shop Manager

Example Nomination for Team Award

Volunteer Edinburgh Buddying Team

Nick Woodhead, Health and Wellbeing Development Officer

Team Name - Volunteer Buddies

Number of volunteers in team - 6

Some people need help to access volunteering - because of their mental health issue, learning disability, lack of confidence, autism, long term health condition, a past addiction or a criminal record.

The volunteer buddies have supported all kinds of people to access the benefits that volunteering has to offer.

Ann was referred by her CPN. She had a chaotic background, and it became apparent that she would need support to visit the conservation projects she was interested in. She was matched with a volunteer buddy Ursula, they met for a chat and then arranged to visit a project. Ann explained to Ursula that it was not quite what she was looking for and they looked at other possibilities.

Eventually they found an opportunity collecting and banking the money from donation boxes. Three years later they are still engaged in the same opportunity. Ursula has provided the support and continuity which has seen her through a spell in hospital and a pandemic! She was also able to suggest other services that Ann required to sustain her volunteering.

Dot had a history of poor mental health and was overwhelmed by the application process she faced to volunteer in a shop. She was matched with Matt who filled in the application form with her, chummed her along to the shop, supported her through the induction and then kept in touch. During the pandemic Dot's volunteering was put on hold but Matt phoned her weekly and they contacted the shop again when it reopened. Dot now has a paid job.

The buddies are a crucial part of the Health and Wellbeing Team, enhancing the service the staff provides. The buddies have provided vital one to one practical support and encouragement to clients who otherwise would have struggled to access and sustain volunteering.

In addition, the volunteers' feeling of self-worth is heightened by the fact that someone is happy to give their time to support them.

Over the 4 years the project has been running, the team of buddies have demonstrated an amazing level of commitment, dedication, reliability, and flexibility. Their contributions during the training have shaped the project and they have continued to provide fresh ideas and insights.