

Team Awards

All Aboard Volunteers People Know How

The volunteers are an incredibly pro-active and compassionate team, always happy to devote their free time to running trips for community groups, enabling more people to experience the canal in an inclusive and relaxing setting. The team work hard to support each other and the people coming on the boat. They bring energy and enthusiasm when there are young people aboard, whilst being caring and calm with a group that needs a quieter environment. The volunteers help to care for the local community and for the environment, helping nature to thrive alongside those who come on board.

Children 1st Parentline Volunteers Children 1st Parentline

The team of selfless volunteers has been vital in helping to support struggling families throughout Scotland, at a time of exceptional need. They build relationships with families, providing emotional and practical support via phone or webchat. Many advisors left due to lockdown but our team of volunteers stepped up to continue to provide professional support to 2500 families annually. They took on longer shifts to make the most of limited resources and embraced new skills such as webchat support. Through their exceptional commitment, they have ensured that a service has been provided nationwide without a single minute of its delivery being compromised.

Community Meal Monday Leith Community Growers

The volunteers have put food and social justice at the heart of this project to provide free meals and good company weekly for their local area. The idea is to create a space for people to get together, meet their neighbours and experience community. They have welcomed all comers through the winter, in all weathers, cooking more than 600 meals as a community response to the cost of living crisis. Many volunteers have worked on this project every week, staying on site until the last of the food has been eaten.

Community Taskforce Volunteers (Ukraine Response) CEC / Volunteer Edinburgh

Edinburgh's third sector response to welcoming people displaced by the war against Ukraine has been nothing short of remarkable since we welcomed the cities first guests in early March 2022. From day one of the response, Volunteer Edinburgh have played a key role in this and I would personally like to thank each and every volunteer who has given up their own time in order to help others. From the initial welcomes at Edinburgh Airport, providing rucksacks with essential items and running the many many sessions across the city to support our Ukrainian guests, the team have gone above and beyond on so many occasions.



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Edinburgh Area Support Team Childrens Hearings Scotland

The Support Team contribute their time to enabling the volunteer Panel Member community of Childrens Hearings Scotland to uphold and protect the rights of children, young people and their families. Their work shows an outstanding commitment and contribution to helping our city's most vulnerable people. No matter their role, they work tirelessly to make this unique system work, guiding and mentoring, supporting and keeping the processes up to date. They show warmth and compassion and are good listeners with big hearts, and work hard with 'The Promise' to keep all children loved and safe.

Edinburgh Crisis Centre Volunteer Team Edinburgh Crisis Centre

The volunteers have brought invaluable benefits, helping those struggling with a difficult period of their lives. They give service users opportunities to learn new skills through art and writing, as well as yoga sessions, developing methods of relaxation. They give people the opportunity to learn new ways of expressing their emotions. Holding exhibitions has allowed service users to share their work, which is extremely rewarding. Volunteers offer individual emotional support with compassion and empathy, via the helpline, email or text. The garden volunteer has ensured that people accessing the Centre have a relaxing garden environment, helping those experiencing very tough times.

Edinburgh School Uniform Bank Volunteer Team Edinburgh School Uniform Bank

The amazing volunteer team is the backbone of the Bank, helping to give 3,000 children a year a smart uniform to go to school in. The volunteers are kind and caring, always willing to go the extra mile to make sure children feel valued. They organise the hub, which deals with thousands of items. They then meticulously pack and distribute bespoke bags of uniform, with items chosen by the children themselves. Their work ensures that young people growing up in hardship can dress the same as their peers, fit in and get the most out of their education.

ELREC Food Support Team Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council

The volunteer team have driven the food support programme, using their exceptional organisational skills to help those in need. Demonstrating their enthusiasm and keen eye for detail, they manage tasks such as client registration and food distribution, all carried out with a positive attitude and a smile. They have injected a renewed sense of purpose and dedication to helping diverse communities which are struggling with the cost of living crisis. They run the operation with an impressive level of independence and self-sufficiency, thanks to their teamwork as positive and committed volunteers.



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F.A.C.E. F.A.C.E.

The only qualifications the volunteers need are a kind, compassionate nature and a drive to help patients going through cancer treatment, and their families. They are a small group of people working hard to raise money. But they like to think they make a big difference to patients by providing extra touches like flowers in hospital waiting rooms and aromatherapy sessions. The team are thrilled with their biggest achievement which has been to give many children affected by cancer the trip of a lifetime to see Santa in Lapland at Christmas.

Hearing Support Sessions (Edinburgh) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

The team of Hearing Support Session volunteers brings huge knowledge and empathy to their mission to help patients. Each volunteer has lived experience of hearing loss, and they are enthusiastic and positive, without sugar-coating the reality. They have helped hundreds of patients to feel informed and supported in the follow-up to their audiology appointments. The team is very solutions-focused and has proved innovative and resilient, helping with the move when the service changed locations because of lockdown. Their wealth of ability has contributed exponentially to this project designed to improve the patients' experience and it would not have succeeded without them.

Hit Squad Water of Leith Conservation Hit Squad

These volunteers are dedicated enough to go out in all weathers to fulfill their mission of conserving and enhancing the Water of Leith. They put in an amazing 5,000 hours a year, doing clean-up work, including removing tons of waste from the river and its banks. They actively improve the local environment by tending wildflower meadows and three community gardens, and maintain the river walkway, as a pleasant place for residents to relax or take exercise. Their enthusiasm, even whilst doing some of the dirtiest jobs, is a great example of the power of volunteering.

LCiL Champions Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living / LCiL Champions

LCiL Champions are a group of disabled people and parent carers with an incredible passion for making a difference, dedicating their time to helping others become more aware of their rights and the support available to them. They act as positive role models by sharing their lived experience, speaking at events designed to inform and empower disabled people to live the life they choose. Champions encourage people in similar circumstances to challenge the attitudes and barriers that create disability within society. They work together to support each other and their commitment and resilience is truly inspiring.

Lothina Breastfeeding Buddies National Childbirth Trust (NCT)



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These volunteers are dedicated to providing warm and empathic, evidence-based support to help mums and families with breastfeeding. Each one has a minimum of 3 months lived breastfeeding experience and has undertaken 20 hours of training. Many have overcome difficult challenges in their own breastfeeding journey and have chosen to use their experiences to support other mums to achieve their goals. Feedback from mums says they have helped them gain confidence and understanding. The volunteers give up their time and commit themselves with compassion and a desire to give mums the experience they hope for.

North Edinburgh Community Shed Volunteers North Edinburgh Arts Community Shed

The volunteers at the Shed helped to meet a significant downsizing challenge, when it had to move out of the original premises into a vacant garage. They showed tremendous drive and diligence in the work which included heavy lifting and re-using materials at the new premises. That commitment continued as they helped to create a functioning workshop space. The volunteers embraced the task, often taking on new skills. Acting as a team, they problem-solved and kept spirits up. They worked joyfully, with great energy, to ensure a successful reopening of the Shed. It simply couldn't have happened without them.

Pennywell Pantry Pennywell Pantry

The volunteers at the low-cost membership scheme for food and necessities go above and beyond to ensure that everyone who uses it feels welcome. With no core funding, it is the volunteers who keep this important service running for the community. While running the Pantry, they offer a friendly face to members, many of whom have a variety of complex needs. They pay special attention to those who feel anxious or isolated from the community. The volunteers work together flexibly to develop their skills to make the Pantry a successful, welcoming and positive space for everyone.

Renal transport Team St John Scotland

The commitment the volunteers bring to the vital service of transporting people to their Renal Dialysis appointments is truly inspiring. They come with a can-do attitude and a positive, caring approach, with the result that the patients have come to regard the drivers as friends. Because they get to know patients while taking them to appointments, volunteers can often spot if someone is not their usual self and can alert hospital staff to the situation. Their positive attitude means they are very adaptable and are happy to respond to changes at very short notice.

Schools Engagement volunteer team City of Edinburgh Council, Museums & Galleries Edinburgh



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The volunteers are a highly valued part of the schools programme, bringing incredible enthusiasm to their work with young people. They help to deliver workshops, assisting and encouraging pupils with their artwork. Without the volunteers, the young people wouldn't enjoy as much of the one-to-one support, which makes such a huge difference to their experience. The volunteers are always happy to do their bit, helping to set up and clear away afterwards. They bring much added value to the schools engagement programme, helping to ensure pupils have a positive and enjoyable experience.

SSAFA Edinburgh & Lothian Branch SSAFA

This team of caring and committed volunteers plays a vital role visiting the homes of people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. They provide a sympathetic ear for clients, helping with a broad range of issues from physical and mental health, to mobility and financial problems. The volunteer visitors can provide referrals to various specialists and much-needed emergency food vouchers, or arrange to get everyday goods like bedding and clothing. Equally important is the empathetic support that this dedicated team can provide to reassure our clients, who are from a military background, that they are not alone.

Tea Dance Team Corstorphine Community Centre

The Tea Dance Team are slick, fun and energetic. They give up a Saturday afternoon every month to bring fifty service users together for connection and a cha cha cha, helping to combat loneliness. They offer the warmest of welcomes, making sure that those attending alone are asked to dance and that everybody feels special and part of their community. Each volunteer brings an energy, organising, selling tickets, keeping up the dancing and clearing up furniture and tea things afterwards. The team are passionate about getting things right for people and they work like a well oiled machine.

The Richard Demarco Library Cataloguing Project Team National Galleries of Scotland

In November 2022, the National Galleries of Scotland launched a volunteer project to catalogue and condition check a valuable arts library acquired from Richard Demarco in 1995. This extensive collection, filled with rare publications from the 1960s and of international significance, had been in storage until now. The team, comprising early-career volunteers and experienced National Galleries volunteers, has shown remarkable dedication and precision in cataloguing the publications. Their collective efforts, due to conclude in May 2023, have been essential in making this resource accessible to researchers and the public. Their camaraderie and commitment have been vital to the success of this ambitious project.



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Transplant Peer Support Volunteers NHS Lothian

The volunteers offer their time to provide a listening ear to those undergoing assessments and to share lived experience of the transformative process of receiving a transplant. They are adaptable, attentive and eager to help. They bring warmth, humour and reassurance at a very anxious time for patients, helping to alleviate that anxiety, answering questions about the before and after process. They also provide an example of how a transplant recipient can live their life to the fullest. Some patients travel from across Scotland and so aren't able to receive visitors and volunteers provide a sympathetic ear for their worries.

Wednesday Day Care Support Volunteers QCCC

The Wednesday Team volunteers are generous with their time and friendliness, ensuring that all Day Care service users feel welcome and enjoy a day full of fun and laughter. They have adapted heroically to changes brought about by the pandemic and gone from strength to strength, providing seamless support, great energy and a sense of humour. The team also do on the job training with new volunteers to ensure they are confident, competent and integrated into the team. The collective thoughtfulness and good company shown by the volunteers is appreciated by all who come to enjoy a day of companionship.

870 (Dreghorn) Squadron, staff 870 (Dreghorn) Squadron, Air Training Corps

Working with young people aged 12 years to 20 teaching them leadership, personal responsibility, technical training, Duke of Edinburghs Award and so much more. The staff team are patient, hard working and engage the cadets through respect and honesty. Always looking for new ways to develop our young people they have been working hard on the Training Plan, gaining First Aid training to allow this to be taught and looking at what more they can offer.

Heat Heroes Changeworks

Our dedicated Heat Heroes volunteers provide crucial energy and fuel billing advice to households facing financial strain. In the 11 years of our project, their support has never been more vital. Despite the challenges posed by recent events, our knowledgeable and compassionate volunteers remain committed to helping households stay warm and comfortable in their homes. They have adapted to changes and now support more households in crisis, showing unwavering enthusiasm and dedication. We are immensely grateful for their invaluable contributions to our mission.

Community Ambassadors Feniks. Counselling, Personal Development and Support Services Ltd.



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The Community Ambassadors, a team of 7 volunteers who joined Feniks in March 2022, launched the "Shed your armour, show the scars!" campaign. With personal experiences of mental health, they aimed to challenge the Polish community's perception of mental health and encourage men to seek support. Volunteers took on various roles, including models, copywriters, and photographers, making the campaign relatable and inspiring. Positive feedback poured in, with people applauding the metaphor of shedding armour and requesting information on available support. The campaign gained media attention, and the Ambassadors were invited to speak on a local Polish radio station. Their work has made a significant impact, challenging societal norms and promoting help-seeking for mental health within the Polish community in Scotland.

Ukrainian Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Volunteers Feniks. Counselling, Personal Development and Support Services Ltd.

Julia and a group of mental health support volunteers, including Hanna, Lidiya, Natalia, Olesia, Svitlana, Valentyna, Viktoriia, and Vitaliia, have been tirelessly supporting the Ukrainian community in Edinburgh since September 2022. As mental health professionals, they bring knowledge, expertise, and passion to their volunteering work. They currently run six mental health groups at various locations, including MS Viktoria and the Ukrainian Club, supporting around 40 refugees each week. Their interventions aim to provide early support and alleviate the mental health impact of war and forced migration. These dedicated volunteers create networks, offer tailored support, and help refugees feel at home. They are also working towards professional accreditation for relevant employment opportunities in Scotland.

Volunteer Edinburgh (Firhill Partnership) Volunteer Edinburgh

Susan and Maureen who form the Firhill Garden Team, are reliable, kind and unassuming. Their consistent work to improve the garden, has benefited other residents, staff and biodiversity. They are determined to transform and improve the whole garden. They are both very humble, but knowledgeable, and have shared this knowledge with others. By having vision, and a long term plan, they are creating a special, calm and relaxed space for people who are experiencing complex mental health problems, to enjoy.

