



Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice

What will I get out of volunteering?

We hope that volunteering with Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice will be a positive and rewarding experience. By volunteering your skills, time and experience you will know you are enabling people in your local community to have access to care and support, whenever and wherever they need it. As an enthusiastic member of our volunteering team, you will have the opportunity to develop your skills and make a difference.

How much time do I have to give as a volunteer?

What would you like to give? We have volunteers who give time once a year and others who volunteer several times a week – there's something for everyone.

What skills do I need to volunteer?

Skills vary depending on which role you are interested in. Further details are included within the role descriptions on the **Volunteer Roles** page.

However, as a Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice volunteer, there is a requirement for you to:

- follow our policies and procedures and
- represent the Hospice and our values positively

What is the volunteering application process?

All roles require you to complete an application form; for help completing the form please contact the Volunteers Department on 0208 320 5812 or volunteersdept@gbch.org.uk. For all retail volunteering, please contact our Retail Co-ordinator on 0208 301 7044 or retailvolunteers@gbch.org.uk.

A DBS check will be required for all volunteers based within the main Hospice site and for volunteers who provide services to patients' homes and fundraising volunteers.

Shop volunteers have the opportunity to do taster sessions at their preferred shop, for a maximum of 6 weeks. During this period, an application form is completed and references requested. Applicants will only become hospice shop volunteers once references have been returned and taster sessions successfully completed.

For some posts, a short informal interview will be held. This is more likely for patient facing posts.

I don't know which role would suit me. Can I talk to someone about the options?

Yes. If you are not sure which of our volunteer roles is right for you, or if you have skills and experiences to offer which do not match any of our available roles, then please contact the volunteering team on 0208 320 5812, as there will be something to suit everyone. We want to make the most of your skills and talents!

What age do I need to be to volunteer?

Anyone over the age of 17 can apply to be a Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice volunteer in the Hospice itself, or aged 16 to help with Fundraising.

Note: Younger people can volunteer in our charity shops or as part of the Duke of Edinburgh or similar scheme. Please contact us for more details.

Will volunteering affect my benefits?

No. Volunteering does not affect the benefit payments you receive. Volunteers are not paid for their time. If you are in any doubt, please speak to your Benefits Advisor.

Will it cost me anything to volunteer?

Volunteers should not be out of pocket as a result of volunteering for us. We reimburse reasonable expenses within agreed guidelines.

I have recently been bereaved myself - do I need to wait before I can volunteer?

This is definitely something we would want to talk to you about to ensure you are ready and able to volunteer productively and safely. Your wellbeing is important to us so it may be that we find an alternative role for you until you are ready to work closely with patients and their families.