

## Volunteering at the Grassmarket Community Project



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with us!

Our community delivers support to a wide variety of vulnerable people through a combination of social enterprises, free members' activity programme and "open door" services (targeted at the homeless and vulnerably housed community). By giving up your time, you will make a positive contribution to the lives of people around you and ensure the success of our project. Volunteers are vital to our community and we hugely value the contribution and commitment.

Everyone that volunteers tells us that they enjoy it. Many tell us they love the fact it supports people and the community. For many, it is an excellent way to get work-experience, gain confidence and many go on to other opportunities including other volunteering, training and employment.

All our volunteers receive ongoing support and free training through the year.

### **How to volunteer within our community:**

Everyone joins our community on the same basis initially, by completing our membership form and attending an induction meeting. Collect a form from reception or complete this online on our website (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GCPRegistration19>). Drop your form to a member of staff at the GCP or send it to [join@grassmarket.org](mailto:join@grassmarket.org).

After that, there are various ways you can help out depending on what is going on at any particular time. Here are some of the opportunities that arise regularly, and how you can find out more:

**Help in our kitchen and café** – work alongside our staff and members to provide an excellent service for our community lunch attendees, and events and café social enterprise customers. Placements are usually for 4 hour one day a week or more. Please contact the Senior Manager of Catering & Events, **Catherine** ([catherine@grassmarket.org](mailto:catherine@grassmarket.org)).

**Help make furniture** as part of the woodwork shop, which is home to our furniture making social enterprise. Please contact the Senior Manager of Woodwork, **Tommy** ([tommy@grassmarket.org](mailto:tommy@grassmarket.org)).

**Help to develop and make tartan gifts** and other products as part of our tartan enterprise team. To start out with this team, please come along to the tartan skills building on a Tuesday. Sign up at reception or call 0131 225 3626.

**Help out at one of our member activities.** Our activity leaders can often do with some help to run a group, from making teas and coffees, and setting-up or clearing-up, to more technical opportunities (e.g. if you have experience in a particular field related to one of our activities). The best way to start is to join in! Sign up for an activity you are interested in, enjoy attending with other members and find out what it is about. Once you have attended a few sessions (minimum 3), speak to the activity leader and ask how you can help.

## Volunteering at the Grassmarket Community Project



**Help with our “open door” meals** and other services. Help to serve and clear away the two course meal we provide each Monday, targeted at the homeless and vulnerably housed community. Volunteers are part of a rota generally contributing 3 hours a week once a month or more. Please speak to **Gillian** ([gillian@grassmarket.org](mailto:gillian@grassmarket.org)).

**Other opportunities** arise from time to time including gardening, cleaning and washing up, helping with events and day-trips for our members, setting up for our free cinema, and as part of our Festival Crew during August (turning our centre into an evening Fringe venue each day). You can also join in by coming along and buy a coffee from our café during our “chatter and natter” time (as at reception), come to our free community cinemas on Mondays and other days (see listings here: <http://grassmarket.org/listings/>) and take advantage of some fantastic training courses and workshops arranged by our training manager **Graham** ([graham@grassmarket.org](mailto:graham@grassmarket.org)).

### Leading activities:

If you have a specific skill set or would like to lead an activity here at the GCP please contact our CEO, **Jonny Kinross** ([jonny@grassmarket.org](mailto:jonny@grassmarket.org)) who’d love to hear from you. This involves additional recruitment processes including being or becoming a member of the Protection for Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme (which is free) and providing 2 testimonials/references. We ask that you only contact Jonny if you are able to be a volunteer leader for 3 months (1 term). New activities being created are informed by members or by staff identifying the need at Members meetings.

### Volunteer Training Opportunities

Opportunities arise throughout the year including the following topics and more:

- Challenging Behaviour
- Mental Health Issues
- First Aid
- Drugs & Alcohol Awareness
- Suicide Prevention

Other opportunities that have arisen in the past include minibus driving (MIDDAS), walking group leadership and introductory welfare right support. We are open to any new suggestions, where these would benefit our activities, enterprises and services.

To find out about training opportunities contact **Graham**, our training manager ([graham@grassmarket.org](mailto:graham@grassmarket.org)), come to our members meetings (3:30-5pm, last Thursday of each month) or keep an eye on posters at reception, sign-up sheets and our regular community bulletin.