

Volunteer profile: 'Home from Home' assistant

Would like to make a difference to a family in need? Are you happy to help with light household duties to maintain the high standards of our 'Homes from Home'? Could you talk to families to support them with sensitivity?

Yes? Then you may be interested in this volunteer role to help us create a warm, welcoming and comfortable 'Home from Home'.

Volunteer – who we need and why

The Sick Children's Trust provides 'Homes from Home' to keep families together when they have a sick child in hospital and kind, caring staff to support them - you could be a part of that team. Families are always the heart of our work and what we do makes a real difference to the families that we support. The 'Home from Home' can be a haven for families to escape the hustle and bustle of the hospital. Families need to unwind from the stressful and tiring long days at their child's bedside, to reflect and to attempt to switch off for a short period, to enjoy a warm bath or refreshing shower, a meal and to rest to recharge their batteries, ready for another long and challenging day or night.

How you can help

- Laundry and ironing
- To help set up bedrooms ready for families to stay
- Tidying communal rooms
- Help with routine tasks e.g., defrosting freezers, cleaning fridges or kitchen cupboards
- Assist with fundraising in house, stalls or at events – tombola, cake sales etc.

How often

As little as a few hours once a week/fortnight. Any time Monday to Friday between 8.30 am to 4pm.

The benefits of volunteering

- You may extend your team working experience, knowledge and skills
- It is likely to promote your wellbeing. Volunteering can promote good mental health
- You will have the satisfaction of making a difference
- You will meet new people e.g.: our staff, families we support and supporters

Support

We care for families when they really need us, and we will support you as part of the team to be the best that you can be. The House Manager will support you and will meet with you regularly to ensure you are happy in your volunteering role and chat through your successes, ideas, progress and plans.

Expenses

This is a volunteering role and not paid employment.

The Sick Children's Trust will repay any travelling expenses to and from home to the volunteering location and where appropriate a meal allowance to a maximum of £8, provided there is proof of purchase for your travelling ticket and meal. A car mileage allowance set at 0.45pence per mile is also provided. Combined cost of travel and lunch expenses must not exceed £20 per day.

Health and safety

We strive to have a safe working environment and ask all volunteers to comply with our health and safety guidance.

Confidentiality

We expect all volunteers to respect the confidentiality of any information which families may share with you in conversations on the premises.

Induction

The volunteer induction includes:

- Meet the team
- A tour of our facilities
- Explanation of health and safety requirements, fire drills, first aid procedures and any other appropriate rules and regulations

- The Volunteer Handbook and Agreement
- Discussion of role and equipment itinerary
- What expenses you can claim and how
- Regular supervision
- Online training where appropriate e.g. Cyber security and GDPR
- DBS check required

Location

Rainbow and Guilford Street, located near Great Ormond Street Hospital