



MERCi is one of the North West's leading sustainable development charities. It runs a number of different projects, all aimed at helping people and organisations live in a more sustainable way.

## MERCi

### **Sustaining Change – Volunteer (preferably no less than 7 hours / week)**

The volunteer/s would be working with the Sustaining Change team. The Sustaining Change programme aims to create a cohesive network of voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises who are committed to operating sustainably.

#### **Main Purpose**

To assist the Sustaining Change team in creating a list of sustainable service providers and product suppliers for an on-line database.

#### **Main Tasks**

Contact providers and request permission to include them on the database. Work with IT Development to develop strategies to keep the database information up to date and to develop a quality control system using customer feedback to ensure database organisations meet acceptable standards.

### **Website Researcher – Volunteer (preferably no less than 7 hours / week)**

The volunteer/s would be working with the MERCi website developer to update the future Manchester website (<http://futuremanchester.kindling.org.uk/>). The Future Manchester website is a directory of activist and campaign groups, progressive voluntary and community groups, worker co-operatives and social enterprises in Greater Manchester.

#### **Main Purpose**

To assist the MERCi website developer in updating the information contained in the Future Manchester website.

#### **Main Tasks**

To work through the current directory and contact all groups to ensure they still exist and their details are correct. To research new groups and areas that should be included in the directory. Work with IT Development to develop strategies to keep the database information up to date.

These are a fantastic opportunities for a volunteer or student to take charge of a programme of work that will allow you to experience project management first hand.

**The posts will be based at Bridge-5 Mill, Ancoats, Manchester and reasonable travel expenses will be paid.**

## **MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY AND MEV QUESTIONNAIRE - Important, Please Read**

If you have not completed and returned the questionnaire, you will stop receiving your regular postal / e-mail newsletter. This is due to the fact that we are updating the information held centrally to ensure that the details kept are those of active volunteers.

Remember, the research is separate from the updating process. Even if you have only volunteered once (or a while ago) we still want to hear about your expectations and opinions. Even if you don't want to stay on the MEV database, you can still return your questionnaire.

If you would still like to receive our information, please complete the questionnaire and update and return them to: **Rita Ralston, MMU, Hollings Faculty, Old Hall Lane, Manchester M14 6HR on 0161 247 2734 or e-mail [r.ralston@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:r.ralston@mmu.ac.uk).**



## Home Start Manchester North require volunteers to offer family Support

Home Start helps to increase the confidence and independence of families. Home start visit families in their own homes to offer support, friendship and practical assistance. Also, offering reassurance to parents that their problems are not unusual or unique. Encouraging parents' strengths and emotional well-being for the ultimate benefit of their children and hopefully trying to get the fun back into family life.

Our volunteers, who have parenting experience themselves, can offer precious time for listening and talking, help with the children, practical help and reassurance, a chance to meet other parents in the same boat, support to use local services and resources.

Parents ask for Home-Start's help for all sorts of reasons. They may feel isolated in their community, have no family nearby and be struggling to make friends. They may be finding it hard to cope because of their own or a child's physical or mental illness. They may have been hit hard by the death of a loved one. They may be really struggling with the emotional and physical demands of having twins or triplets - perhaps born into an already large family.

If you're a parent or a carer, or maybe a grandparent, you know just how tough family life can be at times. As a volunteer you will visit a family in their home once a week for a couple of hours. Home-Start's approach is very personal and friendly and this often reassures parents that what they're going through is not unusual, that they are not alone. Initial and on-going training is provided, CRB check and out-of-pocket expenses.

**So who are our volunteers?** They are people just like you - ordinary people who understand just how hard it can be to bring up young children. They all have parenting experience - some are young, others are not so young - and they come from many different backgrounds. Some have even been helped by Home-Start themselves. **Please register your interest by calling 0161 234 1532 or log into your account at [www.mev.org.uk](http://www.mev.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.**

### CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS

If you have recently changed address, e-mail or phone number please let us know and we can update your details on our central database.

This will ensure that you can be contacted easily when you register for an activity or event.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY with Manchester Adult Education Service VOLUNTEERING COURSES FOR MANCHESTER RESIDENTS ONLY

### First Steps for Volunteers Level 1 at the Plant Hill Centre

This first steps course is for anyone interested in finding out more about the opportunities for working as a volunteer in the community or a voluntary setting. The qualification covers:

Working as a volunteer, understanding prejudice and discrimination in society, teamwork and communication skills and expertise in a voluntary setting

### Diploma for Volunteering and Community Studies Level 2 at the Forum Wythenshawe

This full level 2 course will prepare learners to work in the voluntary sector or pursue further study towards higher education. The course covers:

Developing and using research skills, developing speaking and listening skills, teamwork and communication skills, personal confidence and self-awareness, healthy living

**Both Courses will be held on a Thursday from 9.30 to 12.00 and 1.00pm to 3.00pm for a period of one year.**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**With MEV, volunteering is about personal choice and you can get involved with events which interest you most. You can also take part in training opportunities with local colleges, leading to further qualifications and, if needed, help with finding a job!



## Ask not what your Carer's Centre can do for you, but, what YOU can DO for your Carer's Centre.

The Princess Royal Trust  
for Carers  
Manchester

Are you interested in supporting unpaid carers in Manchester? Manchester Carers Centre supports Carers in Manchester through the provision of advice, advocacy, training, support groups and carer breaks.

We are looking for volunteers who have strong IT skills, experience of providing telephone advice, experience of working in a reception area, or are willing to help out in a variety of practical ways to support the centre with its services.

If you are available during the daytime, during the week and are able to commit a minimum of 8 hours per month to volunteering please let us know.

We are able to cover travel and out of pocket lunch expenses.

**If you would like an application pack or would like more information on volunteering at Manchester Carers Centre Please register your interest in the usual way.**



## New Barnardo's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Mentoring Project

Barnardo's have started a new adult to adult mentoring project. The project aims to match up volunteer mentors with BME, (Black & Minority Ethnic)

residents of Manchester to meet regularly, to support the residents to develop everyday English language skills to widen social networks and improve employability.

We need to recruit volunteers to share their knowledge of the job market in the UK, or even of a specific job. We would particularly like to recruit volunteers with experience of teaching within the UK.

### Benefits to volunteer mentors:

Volunteers will be given training – no prior experience is necessary. Volunteers will be supported throughout the mentoring relationship. Volunteers will have access to Barnardo's internal vacancy list and will have the chance to meet someone regularly to see them progress



## Young People's Support Foundation Ltd

The Young People's Support Foundation (YPSF) was founded in 2005 in Manchester through the merger of two very long established and well respected local organisations, City Centre Project and Signpost.

YPSF was established to 'find more effective ways of dealing with homelessness problems as they arise', and to develop preventative approaches to homelessness and other problems experienced by young people.

City Centre Project, part of the Young Peoples Support Foundation, works with disadvantaged young people aged 16 to 25 years. We are currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us deliver our services to homeless young people:

preparing and serving breakfasts, talking informally with young people to identify what help they might need and giving them access to showers, laundry facilities, toiletries, clothing and use of a phone.

**No previous experience, training or qualifications needed. Times and dates are negotiable.**

**If you are experiencing difficulty with event organisers not contacting you before an event, please contact the Central Team on 0161 234 1532 and we can find out what's happening for you. This may just be an oversight on the organisers behalf.**

# Schools Volunteers Needed!



A Few Small Steps Project (AFSS) provides workshops and resources around sustainability to schools in and around Manchester. We need enthusiastic and committed people who:

- Enjoy working with children and young people
- Want experience in the field of environmental education
- Are able to volunteer 4 hours a week for a minimum of 6 months

'The volunteers were amazing, the resources were inspiring and the children were engaged throughout. Weeks on they continue to suggest ways for us to improve our environment' (R.Hughes, Teacher)



**A CRB check will necessary for this opportunity and reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. Please register in the usual way and an information pack will be sent to you.**

## MEV WEBSITE - SIGN UP NOW!

As an MEV volunteer you are not automatically registered on our website and will have to sign up separately. So, if you have internet access, it's easy to join. You can sign up to the site by visiting the following address: [www.mev.org.uk/community/mymev/](http://www.mev.org.uk/community/mymev/)

**Once on this page you will have to :**

- 1) Click on "Sign up to the website here".
- 2) Go to the Normal Signup section.
- 3) Enter your 6 digit Volunteer Registration Number (which starts with 50), your surname, postcode and date of birth,
- 4) Create your own unique password.
- 5) Verify your password and you're are ready to go.

When you have signed up, you can check out the latest events and news, add your interest to the events you want to take part in, check out the Community Forum, change your personal details and chat to other volunteers via mevLive.

**For help or more information contact the MEV team on 0161 234 1532.**

## USEFUL DOCUMENTS ON THE MEV WEBSITE

Why not have a look and keep yourself up to date with what is happening at MEV by looking at the Useful Documents section of our website [www.mev.org.uk/community/documents](http://www.mev.org.uk/community/documents). From here you can download a number of useful forms and documents.

## MANCHESTER EVENT VOLUNTEERS Answer Phone Service

MEV core working hours are 9am - 5pm.  
After 5pm (or when the office is empty), we now have our own answer phone service which can be accessed on any of our numbers  
0161 234 1530 / 1531 or 1532.

If you are showing interest in events, please speak clearly and leave:

Your Name, your Address and Postcode, your Volunteer Registration Number, your list of event interests, along with the roles or the days you want to do. We can add them to the database for you.

If you need a call back, please let us know and leave your telephone number.

## CONTACT US

Manchester Event Volunteers  
Room 302, Level 3  
Town Hall, Albert Square  
Manchester, M60 2LA

Tel: 0161 234 1530/31/32

**Answer phone: as above (after 5pm)**

Fax: 0161 274 0036

E-mail us: [info@mev.org.uk](mailto:info@mev.org.uk)

Web: [www.mev.org.uk](http://www.mev.org.uk)

