

## Becoming A Volunteer With CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup>

### Introduction

CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup> is one of the leading children's charities in Scotland. Since 1884, we have been working to give every child in Scotland a safe and secure childhood.

Throughout this time, we have worked closely with volunteers to help us achieve our goals. We currently work with around 800 volunteers across all sections of the charity. Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the delivery of our services, fundraising, and speaking out on issues affecting children and young people.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, driven by a desire and commitment to make a difference to the lives of children. Keeping children safe is everyone's business. By giving us their time and effort, our volunteers are making so many achievements possible for vulnerable children across Scotland.

### Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering offers opportunities to try new things, gain new skills, and to widen your horizons. It may be that you are looking to change career and need experience, or just want to try something different and meet other people. Volunteers can bring with them a wide range of skills that, ordinarily, may be difficult to access and can help our services to become more responsive to the needs of children and young people. Often volunteers are looking for opportunities to use their professional expertise for good causes. This can help us to undertake projects that normally could not be considered. This could mean an expansion of a service, increased opening hours, or the possibility of running a large-scale fundraising event.

### Volunteer Opportunities

We have a range of opportunities for volunteers within the charity.

We have a number of services across Scotland working with children and parents with varying needs. These offer a range of volunteering opportunities from working directly with children and families to helping with administration, maintenance of our facilities, or helping with transport.

Our volunteer fundraisers play a vital role in helping to keep our services going.

We can promise you plenty of fun, as well as a great sense of achievement knowing that you will be helping to ensure that children are happy and safe in Scotland. We have many different roles that you can get involved with.

- Action Group Member
- Admin Support
- Advocate
- Befriender
- Driver
- Group Worker
- Learning Support
- ParentLine Scotland Call Taker
- Fundraising Can Collector

We are committed to finding new and challenging roles for volunteers, and we are always on the look out for skills and expertise that could help us achieve our goals.

## Training and Support

No matter what kind of volunteer role you have, we will make sure that you have access to all the support you need to get the most out of your volunteering experience with us. You will be supported by a member of staff in the team or department you are involved with. Your supervisor will offer you encouragement and support, and help to deal with any issues that might arise. In addition, your supervisor will keep you informed of new events and developments within the charity.

You will be offered an induction when you take up your volunteering role. The induction will introduce you to the work of the charity, and to the role that you will be carrying out. Some volunteer roles, such as a befriender, require special induction training that must be completed before you start volunteering. This is particularly important for roles involving direct work with children.

## How to Apply

All of our volunteer opportunities are advertised on our website. You will find all the information you need to help you decide which volunteer role best suits your needs.

If you do not have access to the web, please contact one of our offices (listed right) and we'll send you a list of our current volunteer opportunities, along with details of how to apply. If you do not see any volunteer opportunities that interest you, we will endeavour to find a place for your skills within our work.

“After being helped by CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup>, I felt that as a volunteer I could give something back. I also wanted to work with friends, boost my self-confidence and prepare myself for my return to employment.”  
Sarah, Volunteer

“My volunteer has shown me how much more there is to life and the world we live in. I feel I am a better, stronger person than I would ever be without her.”  
Marie (15)

Please visit the CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup> website at [www.children1st.org.uk](http://www.children1st.org.uk) or contact your nearest office:

**North**  
01224 251151  
[volunteernorth@children1st.org.uk](mailto:volunteernorth@children1st.org.uk)

**East**  
0131 319 8073  
[volunteereast@children1st.org.uk](mailto:volunteereast@children1st.org.uk)

**West**  
0141 418 5673  
[volunteerwest@children1st.org.uk](mailto:volunteerwest@children1st.org.uk)

## CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup>

For further information about CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup> and to order any of our publications, please contact:

CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup>, 83 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH9 1AT  
Tel: 0131 446 2300 Fax: 0131 446 2339  
E-mail: [info@children1st.org.uk](mailto:info@children1st.org.uk)  
Web: [www.children1st.org.uk](http://www.children1st.org.uk)

For over 120 years CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup>, the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has been working to give every child in Scotland a safe and secure childhood.

CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup> is the working name of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Registered Charity No: SC 016092



Giving Scotland's vulnerable and disadvantaged children a brighter future