

## Unity Employment Services

Unity Employment Services was set up in May 2011 to support Unity tenants and the communities in which they live to get back into employment and training.

Each person has an individual reason for unemployment or under-employment. Unity's dedicated Employment Team ensures that each customer has an individual plan tailored to their specific needs.

The Team can help you with practical job skills such as preparing your CV, guidance for job searching and applications, and practising your interview technique.

The Employment Team have already helped secure over 250 jobs, work placements or training opportunities for tenants and local people - but they'd like to help even more!

If you, or any member of your household could benefit from the Employment Team's support or guidance, then please get in touch.

Noma

Jamal

Kelly



0113 200 7746



0113 200 7710



0113 200 7738



[EmploymentOutreach@unityha.co.uk](mailto:EmploymentOutreach@unityha.co.uk)

## Try volunteering

Voluntary work is a fantastic way to gain experience and build confidence! It allows you to work and gain experience in a role that interests you and its brilliant for your CV. Volunteering is a hugely valuable and rewarding experience for both volunteers and the communities they support. It is an excellent opportunity to learn new skills and boost your employment prospects.

It can enable you to obtain:

- Valuable work experience
- Good references
- An enhanced CV
- The employment you have always desired

Volunteering can also be a very rewarding experience with a vast amount of benefits for yourself and community, such as:

- **Gain confidence.** Gain confidence by giving you the chance to try something new and build a real sense of achievement.
- **Make a difference.** Have a valuable positive affect on people, communities and society .
- **Meet people.** Meet different people and make new friends.
- **Be part of a community.** Feel part of something outside your friends and family.
- **Learn new skills.** Gain experience and sometimes even qualifications.
- **Take on a challenge.** Challenge yourself to try something different, achieve personal goals, practice using your skills and discover hidden talents.
- **Have fun!** Our volunteers have a great time, regardless of why they do it

## Who can volunteer?

Volunteering is for anyone from all backgrounds as from the age of 18. Most volunteering roles do not need any training as full training and induction is given by the organisation for the role when you start.

We are here to help match your motivation and expectations to opportunities available through the partner organisations we work with.

Unity's Employment Services can source volunteering opportunities for you.

## Will volunteering affect your benefits?

Volunteering will not affect the benefits you receive. As a volunteer you will not normally be paid for your time but may usually be reimbursed for legitimate expenses like travel and lunch.

## How can we help?

There are various ways that our Employment Services team can support you, both before and during your volunteering. They will:

- Match your skills and interests, as well as future aspirations, to current available opportunities
- Refer or signpost you to relevant organisations
- Support you during the application process, such as completing forms or sending CVs
- Provide personal references

## Case Studies

### Ruth's\* story

Ruth approached Noma at Unity's Employment Services as she had heard about the help which was available, and the contacts Unity had, to help her. She desperately wanted to work with young people and children but had no experience.

Noma considered all her options, and found Ruth a volunteering opportunity at a local community school.

At this school Ruth gained valuable experience and did in school training courses during the 6 months she was there.

"Volunteering has given me confidence to work with children! Its been one of the most rewarding things I've ever done!"

### Natasha's\* story

When Natasha was made redundant after 12 years, she sought help from Unity staff regarding benefits and how to go about finding a new job.

She met Kelly who helped her complete a CV and apply for benefits. Searching for jobs highlighted the need for Natasha to have IT skills, which she didn't possess.

Kelly sourced and secured Natasha a place at a local college to do a Microsoft Skills course. After completing the course Natasha began volunteering at the college.

"Kelly has helped me so much! She helped me put together a CV, as well as motivating me and helping to rebuild my self-esteem"

## Useful Websites

Here are a few websites that can provide further information and help you find volunteering opportunities:

- ✓ [www.doinggoodleeds.org.uk/i-want-volunteer/](http://www.doinggoodleeds.org.uk/i-want-volunteer/)
- ✓ [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)
- ✓ [www.betterleeds.org.uk/volunteering/currentopportunities](http://www.betterleeds.org.uk/volunteering/currentopportunities)
- ✓ [www.leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk/opportunity/index](http://www.leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk/opportunity/index)

\* Names have been changed for anonymity.

### Problems understanding?

If you need any of our information translating or if you need an interpreter, please contact us. We can also provide this information in large print or on CD if you need us to.

Unity Housing Association Ltd  
113-117 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 3HY

☎ 0113 200 7700

✉ [uha@unityha.co.uk](mailto:uha@unityha.co.uk)

web: [www.unityha.co.uk](http://www.unityha.co.uk)



Search 'Unity Homes'



Homes & Enterprise

Supporting BME Communities  
and Multi-Cultural Neighbourhoods

## Volunteering



Excellent partner contacts and support during your placement