

Volunteer roles

Blythe House Hospicecare relies on the support of volunteers in three key areas:

- Patient services
- Retail
- Fundraising

Volunteer roles at the hospice include:

Befriender - Befrienders play a key role in welcoming clients new to our Living Well services and helping them to settle in and feel comfortable. They provide practical and emotional support to clients where this is needed, assist in serving refreshments and generally help to facilitate the smooth running of the service. A calm, sensitive and understanding attitude when interacting with clients is essential together with the ability to understand and work within the boundaries of the client: volunteer relationship.

Catering assistant - This role involves assisting in the preparation and service of light refreshments and lunches to clients, and clearing away afterwards.

Complementary therapist - We aim to provide our clients with the opportunity to experience, and benefit from, a range of complementary therapies, including reflexology, aromatherapy and Reiki, and hand and foot massages. Volunteers must be qualified in at least two different types of therapy, including one touch therapy and have at least two years post-qualification experience in their chosen therapies and some knowledge of cancer.

Counsellor - Volunteers with recognised counselling qualifications and experience are an asset to our counselling team, and we also offer volunteer placements to trainee counsellors. Depending on their qualifications, skills and experience, volunteer counsellors provide bereavement support, counselling support for Blythe House clients, their families and carers, or support our Children in Need funded counselling service for children and young people.

Creative art support - Many of our clients enjoy and benefit from taking part in creative activities and we welcome anyone with an interest in arts and crafts to volunteer under the guidance of the Creative Art Coordinator.

Driver - Flexibility, reliability and empathy are essential qualities for this role, which involves providing transport to and from Blythe House for clients. Volunteer drivers are required to have a full, clean driving licence and agreement from their insurance company that their vehicle can be used in their volunteer role.

Gardener - Basic planting and gardening skills are an advantage for this role together with the ability to work without supervision in maintaining, planting and keeping the hospice garden area tidy.

Information centre support - Sound I.T. skills together with good communication and organisational skills are essential for this role, which involves providing administrative support and information around a range of topics such as diagnosis, treatment options and side effects, and signposting visitors to available services.

Reception cover - As the first point of contact for clients, visitors and telephone callers, receptionists have an important role in which first impressions are everything. Good interpersonal and communication skills, an excellent telephone manner and a calm, helpful and polite approach are essential for this role.

Retail activities:

Retail assistant - This role is very varied and includes sorting, pricing and displaying donated stock, together with helping and serving customers, and we aim to involve our volunteers in every aspect of running the shop.

Collections and deliveries assistant - This role is based specifically at our Whaley Bridge shop and is ideal for anyone who is fit and strong enough to lift and shift items of furniture and help with collections and deliveries.

Fundraising:

Event supporters - This role involves assisting with the planning and organisation of a Blythe House event, distributing posters and leaflets and helping at the event. In addition, we are always delighted to hear from anyone interested in organising a fundraising event in aid of Blythe House.

Collection box co-ordinators - We need volunteers to manage our collecting boxes that are sited in businesses, shops and pubs throughout the High Peak area and this includes finding new sites for boxes and replacing boxes when full.

Bag packers - Bag packs and bucket collections are regularly held at local supermarkets and we welcome volunteers who can commit to supporting these fantastic fundraisers on a regular basis.

To find out more and for full role descriptions for any of our volunteering opportunities, please call: 01298 815388 or email: volunteering@blythehouse.co.uk.