

Would you Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer, please contact us.

Our Office:

Volunteer Centre Sheffield The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane Sheffield S1 4FW

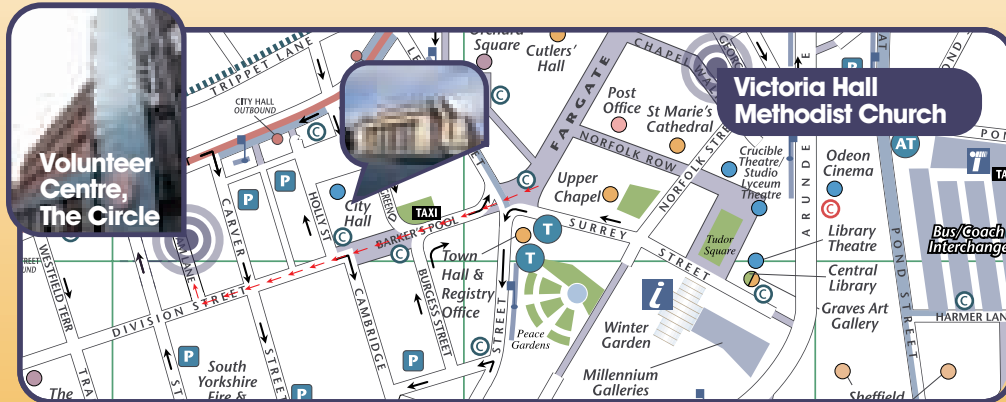
Call James – **0114 253 6655/51**

Email: refugee@vas.org.uk

Come to the Conversation Club / Drop in

Only on Wednesday's from 2—4pm

Victoria Hall Methodist Church, in the Town Centre near the Crucible Theatre.



Volunteers Feedback

People said that their:

- Access to new contacts and networks increased (86%)
 - Personal development has increased (82%)
 - Sense of trust in others increased (81%)
 - Sense of integration into the UK increased (75%)
-
- 96% Of volunteers said that the support from the volunteer centre was important in helping them to find and start a volunteering opportunity

Find out more on our website: www.vas.org.uk/refugee_asylum_project.htm



voluntary action sheffield
www.vas.org.uk



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Volunteer Centre
Sheffield

Are you a Refugee or Asylum Seeker?



A volunteer helps disabled residents at Leonard Cheshire

Use Your Skills—Learn New Skills Try Helping/ Volunteering

**Volunteering is helping an organisation or group.
Helping others can help you to:**

- **Learn new skills—you can get free training**
- **Meet new people—make new friends**
- **Improve your English**
- **Get a reference to help get a job**

Volunteering opportunities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Volunteer Centre Sheffield New Beginnings Project is here to help refugees and asylum seekers to get into worthwhile volunteering opportunities.

Volunteer Centre Sheffield, part of Voluntary Action Sheffield can help by giving in depth support to refugees and asylum seekers who want to volunteer, including:

- Helping you find a good volunteer placement
- Calling agencies for you and arranging appointments
- Helping you fill in application forms
- Going with you to the first volunteering interview (if necessary)

What is a Volunteer?

A volunteer is a person who, unpaid, chooses to give their time and skills to help people in the community. It is your free choice to do this.

You can choose how many hours and what days you want volunteer.

Volunteering is helping an organisation, group or charity that does not make a profit and/or is helping the community.

Benefits of Volunteering Helping others can help you to:

Use your skills and learn new skills - you can get free training	Meet new people and make new friends
Get experience in the UK work environment	Improve your English
Get a reference to help you to get a job	Contribute to your community

Will I get any money – Will it cost me anything to volunteer?

Volunteers do not get paid, but you will get your expenses. For example, if you buy a bus ticket to go an organisation, that organisation will pay for your ticket. You will need to keep your ticket as proof. Some places will give you some money for lunch if you volunteer for a full day or over 4 hours.

Can Asylum Seekers Volunteer?

Yes. Asylum seekers are allowed to volunteer and there are no restrictions on how much you can do. It will not affect your NASS support. It will not affect your Home Office asylum application

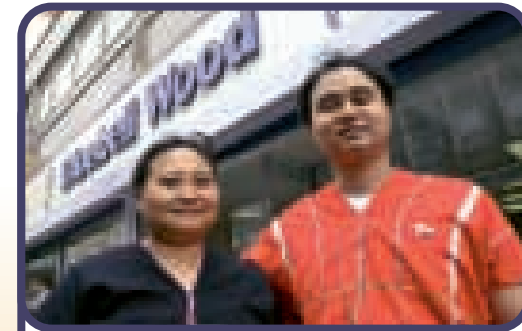
Do I have to tell the Job Centre?

If you are a refugee and you get benefits from the Job Centre Plus, you can volunteer as much as you like but you must:

1. Be actively looking for work and
2. Be willing to stop volunteering if you get a job

What is your level of English?

Some volunteering roles do not need much English, e.g., gardening, practical work or serving coffee. Other roles such as advice work or reception need quite a good level of spoken English. Just ask – there will be something you can do.



A Burmese couple volunteer at a charity shop to improve their English



Volunteers on a day trip to Chatsworth house

Examples of Volunteers?

An Iranian accountant uses his skills to help a local charity.

An Eritrean man supports disabled residents at Leonard Cheshire

A Zimbabwean woman is volunteering as an advice worker

A Burmese couple improve their English by volunteering at a charity shop

Comments from Volunteers:

- The main benefits is work experience. I have improved my English and volunteering helped me to get a job - Tesfay, Eritrea
- I improved my communication skills and met new people. I am more confident since I started volunteering - Amina, Somalia
- It helped me to meet new people and learn more about their cultures - Reza, Iran