



APPLICANT'S INFORMATION PACK

Volunteer opportunities

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Vineyard or in our Foodbanks.

The team at The Vineyard Community Centre are getting ready to re-open the Charity shops, Foodbank Satellites, and Community Café after lockdown restrictions ease.

The restarting of these projects has allowed us to welcome back many of our volunteers who had to stand down during lockdown and has produced many more volunteering opportunities.

We are actively recruiting volunteers now and are delighted to have spoken to so many people who have come forward to help. We have volunteering vacancies for shop assistants, foodbank drivers, cafe assistants, foodbank assistants, event fundraisers, gardeners with horticultural backgrounds, kitchen porters and cooks!!

You will find details about our mission, values and organisation in in this pack.

Whatever your skill we would welcome you into our community!

Please read this information carefully, complete the application form and send it to Fiona Brennan at Fiona@vineyardcommunity.org.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Palframan".

Mark Palframan

Chief Executive

1. THE VINEYARD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Vineyard Community Centre's aim is to firstly express Christian love by serving the local community within Richmond and secondly to see long-lasting change through the transformation of individuals in body, mind and spirit by the power of God's love. Those who come to us for help are our guests, rather than clients or service users.

There are broadly five groups of people whom we help.

Firstly, rough sleepers and those in crisis who need emergency short-term support and immediate help through specific services as well as social and spiritual encouragement in addressing the causes of their problems. Our aim is to move people away from crisis to a stable and self-sustaining life style in all that we do. Our morning Drop-in provides the basics for those in need – food, clothing, showers and a warm, welcoming place of acceptance and refuge.



Our Care Department comprising on-site nursing and medical help as well as advocacy and case working (in conjunction with our partner organisation called the Glass Door), gives longer term support and sign posts guests to more specialist support by other organisations. Regular multi-team case working meetings are now held jointly with other agencies.



Glass Door usually run the Winter Night Shelter Scheme from November to April through seven local churches which provide the venue for rough sleepers to have a roof over their head and a hot meal when they arrive.

Secondly are those who feel lonely, isolated and socially excluded with perhaps learning or mental health problems who are vulnerable adults. They are very much at home in our afternoon Community Café which hosts other organisations and activities- RBMInd run an art therapy group, there is a Knitting Group, the CAB hold a surgery and an afterschool group for primary school children called Relish and Grace meets twice a week.



Thirdly, we help those who are in crisis and need emergency food supplies. We operate our main



Foodbank at the Vineyard Centre and four other satellites provide this service elsewhere across the borough. Our Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust.



Fourthly, our initiative called Roots provides skills training for those coming out of crisis. Currently, this programme, due to Covid 19, is on hold but we hope to re-start it in May 2021.

Fifthly, we also run a small sewing group called Works of Love which provides sewing tuition with a sense of community and build personal confidence. We also run sewing courses which lead to an award of AQA vocational certificates.



We run two Charity Shops. Guests on their road to recovery often work as mentored volunteers in the Shop and the Café. Both the Shop and the Café provide income revenue too for our work.

Our website gives more information

<http://www.vineyardcommunity.org>.

2. OUR STORY SO FAR

We have had many comments from guests whom we support, volunteers who work with us and customers to our Cafe and Shops who say that there is something special and different about the Vineyard. One person commented that 'surely God is in this place'. We know that to be true. It is a precious thing which we don't take for granted.

Our strap line is **'help in crisis, hope for life.'**

Prior to the lock-down our morning drop-in sessions were visited by about 50 people every day. Since we have been partially re-open this year we have already supported over 170 people (January to March 2021). Many of these are 'vulnerably housed' rather than actually without accommodation although during this time we have been particularly pleased to have assisted eight of our guests who were homeless, off the streets and into accommodation.

Hard statistics give the outputs; more importantly are the outcomes for individuals through the changed lives. All who come are warmly welcomed and treated as

guests. Time is given them so they that they know that we care, respect and love them as those who have been made in the image of God.

'I don't know how to start. Thank you for the lovely food you sent us. I felt very emotional. I really don't have words to thank you enough'. (from someone helped through our Foodbank.

We have many such stories to share.

Ours is an organisation providing front line support to those with often multiple and complex needs. That in itself is a major challenge. But our organisation comprises a unique mix of services – Drop-in, Care and Community Nursing, Community Cafe, Foodbanks, Vocational Training through Roots and Works of Love and a Charity Shop.

3. WHO'S WHO

Besides a small team of very dedicated and passionate staff, our many volunteers are essential for supporting the needs of our guests. Most volunteers assist in the front-line provision of our services but others help in human resources, finance, marketing and comms.

There is a Board of Trustees with overall responsibility for the governance of the charity chaired by Bob Kimmerling who is also an elder of the Vineyard Life Church.

4. WHAT WE BELIEVE

We are a Christian organisation and our Christian identity is fundamental to our mission. We welcome all who come to us and delight that those of other faiths or no faith at all, join in working as staff and volunteers. We subscribe to the Faith Work's Charter.