



Cassiltoun
Housing Association

Volunteer Information



Welcome and thank you for your interest in volunteering with us!

There are many reasons why people volunteer with us.

It could be to enhance their own personal skills, build confidence/self-esteem, access accredited training qualifications and informal workshops or simply because you enjoy it and want to give time to your local community. Whatever your reason, we are more than happy to support you on your volunteer journey.

Let's hear what some of our current volunteers say about volunteering with Cassiltoun.

"I wanted to get into volunteering to get my work ethic back after being unemployed. There are lots of benefits offered by volunteering outwith the financial gain. I believe volunteering has helped me build back up my self-esteem and self-worth which was lost through unemployment. I have met new people from a range of different backgrounds, I have even met new friends who speak a different language, this has enhanced my communication skills. I believe it's more important how you spend your time than how you spend your money."

"I volunteer because I like helping the community and other people. Being a volunteer is something that motivates me to be a better person every day, contributing to my community."

"I enjoy the outdoors and the company, I like to try and make a difference, I feel healthier keeping active and busy. Every day is a surprise."

"I like to help the community, I feel happy to help and feel useful to society."

Training Opportunities

We view volunteering as a fantastic way to contribute to your community, build on an interest, have your say, gain some experience, share and develop skills and as one of our volunteers regularly highlights, to "get out the house".

We value those who give their time across the Association and amongst our various Community Projects. We work alongside people to ensure that they are getting what they want out of volunteering. This may be:

- accredited training such as First Aid, Food Hygiene, Brush Cutter Licence or Chainsaw Licence.
- developing our Volunteer Development Programme with us to cover topics of interest, for example, Confidence Building, Assertiveness, Health and Safety, Stress Management, and Challenging Behaviour.
- support to access further opportunities such as attending training/workshops in other areas, providing references, support with CV writing and passing on knowledge of what's going on elsewhere.
- influencing what we deliver from what projects we prioritise for funding, to design and delivery of events and activities.
- gaining awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Saltire Award or Community Achievement Award.
- simply a regular place to come to for good company and a constant flow of hot drinks!



Please note these opportunities are optional and have been co-designed with our volunteers. All opportunities are subject to which resources we have at this time.

Roles

We understand that people volunteer for a variety of reasons and we will work alongside you to ensure that you are getting what you want out of volunteering. Below are roles that we currently have, however we are open to creating new opportunities, should something fit your interest better.

Castlemilk Park Volunteer

As part of a team, Castlemilk Park Volunteers contribute to keeping Castlemilk Park a place for people to visit, enjoy and learn in. They meet regularly to do light conservation tasks, woodland maintenance, and biodiversity work.

Castlemilk Explorers Group Leader

This group provides fun, free nature activities within our woodlands for children aged 7-12 years old. You would work alongside the Community Woodland Officer, it may include scavenger hunts, storytelling, arts and crafts, survival skills and biodiversity surveying. Other volunteering opportunities are available during the week, which will be similar to Castlemilk Explorers.

Youth Advisory Group Member

This group is for anyone between 14-25 years old who would like to make a difference in their community. This group develop ideas, projects and advises us on what we could be doing better. They also have access to a whole range of opportunities based on their interests such as attending youth events and training across Scotland. The group design, deliver and raise money for youth away days.

This is an informal and friendly space that we aim to make accessible to everyone.

Community Garden This group meets every Tuesday 10.30am-3.30pm. Gardening skills are NOT essential but if you have gardening skills it would be great to share with the group. Anyone is welcome, to learn new skills or share skills, to grow and cook food from the garden or just attend for a cup of tea and a chat.



Event Volunteer

Getting involved in our busy events, this may include setting up, helping out on the day, running a feedback stall, giving your ideas, or being involved in the planning and management. Examples of our biggest events are Doggie Day, Cassiltoun Family Fun Day, and our Halloween Spooky Walk. This would look great on your CV for event experience.

Stables Studio This group meets 3 days per week and is for over 50 year olds who live in the G45 area. There is a community artist at hand to help with numerous art and craft activities. However, we welcome volunteers with arty skills, those who are looking for experience, or those who enjoy involving people in a good old blether!

Tenant Groups Our Estate Action Group and Focus Group meet once every 6-8 weeks and ensure that tenant and resident voices are heard. At Cassiltoun we strive to involve you in the decision making across the Association, with regular meetings to ensure community influence on the decisions and direction of the Association.

Board of Management The Board focuses on the strategic direction of the Association and regularly monitors and reviews business performance. The Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team work closely with the Board developing our strategy and direction. If you are interested in joining our Board please contact us.

Food related activities We have a whole variety of projects throughout the week including the Friday Feed, Cook and Kids Club and the Holiday Food Programme. For those who enjoy cooking, want to get better at it, or simply love food, these activities/programmes are for you!



Responsibilities

When volunteering you can expect us to fulfil our responsibilities to you and, likewise, there are responsibilities that we expect all of our volunteers to agree to.



We will:

- Provide a clear explanation of what you will be doing and why.
- Provide appropriate training, workshops, supervision and support for your role.
- Provide induction training and the opportunity to attend further training.
- Aim to include you in the decision making of a range of programmes, events, activities and more.
- Create an environment where you; know that your ideas and input are highly valued; feel safe and welcome; know that you can approach the Community Team in confidence.

You will:

- Maintain good relations with other volunteers, employees and partnerships. Examples of our partnerships could be Operation Play Outdoors, Bat Conservation Trust, other community organisations within Castlemilk etc.
- Follow our important procedures that help keep everyone safe and welcome. We expect you to be aware of these and keep yourself informed of what procedure to follow, should any issues arise (we will go over this at your induction.)
- Carry out tasks safely, both for your own sake and that of others.
- Let us know of any training or learning opportunities that you would like to receive and/or any support you might need to access these.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Help us promote the good work that we do across the Association: often people rely on word of mouth and so it would be helpful to us if you spread the word within the community to further enable people to get involved in our wide range of activities/groups and events.

A little bit about us...

Cassiltoun Housing Association evolved in 2004 from Castlemilk East Housing Co-operative after the organisation decided to change its status by becoming a charity. Cassiltoun Housing Association is the oldest community ownership housing co-operative in not only Castlemilk but also Glasgow, being registered with the Industrial and Provident Society in December 1984. The Association is managed by a Voluntary Board made up of local people. For more information about our staffing structure have a look at our website, www.cassiltoun.org.uk.

Whether you are volunteering as a Board Member, outdoors in Castlemilk Park, at our community garden, youth advisory group or helping members of the community access our free services and events, your contribution of time provides us with the skills and opportunities to do so much more than would otherwise be possible.

As a volunteer at Cassiltoun Housing Association we hope you can positively contribute to CHA's Vision, Mission, and Values:

Vision

Community driven social responsibility achieved through business diversity and performance which will make a real difference to local people.

Mission Statement

We aim to enhance the quality of life of our clients and to regenerate and sustain our community through housing-led and resident controlled initiatives.

Values



Contact Us

If you wish to have a look at what events/activities we have provided in the past or any new opportunities arising you can keep up to date with any of these methods:

Facebook: **Cassiltoun Housing Association**
Facebook: **Castlemilk Park Project**
Website: **www.cassiltoun.org.uk**
Call us: **0141 634 2673**
Email us: **housing@cassiltoun.org.uk**

Partnership Working

We work in partnership with organisations both locally and nationally to maximise the benefits for our volunteers, employees and members of the community. We have a huge range of partnerships with a few examples being other Housing Associations, Scottish Forestry Commission, Castlemilk Together: Food Action Project, Local Schools, Castlemilk Youth Complex, and lots more. This is great experience for anyone who would like to volunteer and in the past other opportunities have arisen for our volunteers through working in partnership with other organisations.



Summary

One of Cassiltoun Housing Association's strategic objectives is to continue to *“Contribute to the wellbeing of the local community by working with tenants, residents, partners and funders to develop initiatives that promote regeneration and increased levels of inclusion.”*

We aim to continue the amazing work in Castlemilk Stables and Castlemilk Park that would not be possible without our volunteers.

We want you to be a part of our dynamic future and enhance your volunteer journey by making decisions in the local community and to feel empowered and proud that your help and input has made a difference on the future of Castlemilk.

If you have any suggestions/ideas that you would like to put forward, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Team.



Cassiltoun
Housing Association

Castlemilk Stables • 59 Machrie Road • Glasgow G45 0AZ
telephone **0141 634 2673** • fax **0141 634 9987**

email housing@cassiltoun.org.uk • web www.cassiltoun.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No SC 035544