

YOUR VOLUNTEER NEWS

AUTUMN EDITION - NOVEMBER 2023

WELCOME FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

Hello everyone and welcome to our autumn newsletter. There have been some changes within the volunteer team since our last newsletter in the summer and we want to share the updates with you all.

Kristie, our new Volunteer Manager has started in post. Kristie has worked in the charitable sector for over 14 years and believes that the volunteer team is an asset to Newlife and looks forward to developing the team further. Kristie is working her way around Newlife and getting to know the different areas and is enjoying spending time with the volunteers. If you see her do say hello!

Katie, our Volunteer Recruitment and Support Officer has returned from maternity leave and is eager to grow and develop the volunteer offer at Newlife. Katie is working across sites - come and say hi!

Rob, Michelle and Jade continue to work at the Opportunity Centre, and you will see them there alongside Kristie and Katie.

15 YEARS OF THE OPPORTUNITY CENTRE



We celebrated 15 years of the Opportunity Centre on October 27th. The centre at Cannock celebrates diversity and gives opportunities for volunteers to socialise and develop new skills, while supporting Newlife.

To celebrate the event, we held an open day, and the centre was presented with a plaque to commemorate its 15-year anniversary by Dame Amanda Milling MBE, who spent time with the teams and celebrated with us.

The event was attended by teams from across the organisation, as well as corporate partners Paragon.

Thank you to all that supported the event, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

At Newlife we cannot thank volunteers enough for their hard work that they do to support the children and their families.

To recognise this, we celebrated volunteers throughout the week of October 9th to 13th. Newlife teams all attended the centre to discuss their areas and roles. The chats highlighted how volunteers support this and offer new opportunities to all. This allowed teams across the different areas to meet and open discussions.



HOW VOLUNTEERING WORKED FOR ME - JESS'S NEWLIFE STORY



Volunteering can be a great way of finding out more about a particular organisation or different roles within it so you can decide if it's something you'd like to pursue in the future and develop a wide range of new skills – and it certainly helped Jess who decided to become a Newlife volunteer, fitting in extra hours each week alongside working her usual retail role in the Superstore, leading to a whole new career with charity.

Jess originally began a Saturday job at the Superstore in 2017 while at college studying Health and Social Care, but then stayed on, sidelining her plans to become a nurse practitioner. Eventually she decided she wanted to pursue other roles, but still wanted to stay with Newlife, so volunteering offered her a safe way to explore how other departments worked and what roles interested her.

Jess volunteered with the Play Therapy Pod Team, helping to send toys out and refurbish the toys which came back, which helped her discover more about the charity. With the support of the volunteer team Jess then did an online course in administration. Then when a permanent Logistics Administration role became available in 2021 within the Production Team she successfully applied – bringing together her knowledge of both the retail and charity sides of Newlife as she ensures all the stores have the stock they need.

"I absolutely love my current role and continue to learn on a daily basis. The role is varied, and no two days are the same. It is totally different to what I thought I would do when I was at college, but I'm working in an organisation I love."

"One of my favourite things about Newlife is how it is one big family. Everyone always helps each other and is always there for you!"

JIM'S JOKES

Jim, our volunteer has provided lots of entertainment for us in the Opportunity Centre with his jokes, here are a few jokes for you all:

🕒 What is a ghost's favourite TV programme?
Horror-nation Street! 🕒

🕒 What is Dracula's favourite dance?
The fang-dango! 🕒

SOMETHING GREAT TO CELEBRATE



SHEILA turned 70 on September 28th and celebrated her day with us.

LAWRENCE AND EMILY celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary with us and discussed their experience of a celebratory helicopter flight with the team.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are going to have a celebration in the Opportunity Centre on Thursday December 14th for Christmas. All are invited. We will have a disco, food and refreshments available. Party wear welcomed! We'd also like to encourage volunteers across all stores and warehouse sites to have their own Christmas parties on December 14th if they can't get to the Opportunity Centre. We can't wait to see pictures of your celebrations!

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Opportunity Centre will close on Friday December 22nd, and will reopen on Tuesday January 2nd.