



## Christmas Volunteering Opportunities

Below is a selection of volunteering opportunities that are current at the time of writing. There are usually more volunteers than opportunities for Christmas Day itself and places get filled quickly. Lack of public transport is often a problem too so we have included opportunities that lead up to Christmas.

It is worthwhile mentioning that volunteering does not have to always be a formal thing. For example, do you have a neighbour who may be on their own over Christmas that you could catch up with, help with shopping, or accompany to a local event, eg. a carol concert?

**Crisis at Christmas** - Applications are now open for a wide range of volunteer roles at Crisis at Christmas in London [www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/christmas-volunteering-london/](http://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/christmas-volunteering-london/)

**Elleray Hall Christmas Day Lunch** - Up to 80 guests enjoy a meal and festive company at Elleray Hall in Teddington. Volunteer roles include driving, preparing the hall, helping in the kitchen, greeting and chatting to guests and serving lunch. Contact Colin and Elizabeth Hicks. [office@teddingtonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@teddingtonbaptist.org.uk) / [cphicks@btinternet.com](mailto:cphicks@btinternet.com) 0208 977 8000/0208 977 8406.

**Barnes Green Centre Christmas Day Lunch** - Traditional Turkey Dinner and lots of fun and entertainment organised by The Barnes Community Association. Contact Julia Bebington/BCA on 0208 878 2359.

**Christmas Day Lunch** at St Stephen's Church, Richmond Road, East Twickenham. Contact Catherine 0208 892 5258.

**Christmas Day Lunch** at The Emmanuel Centre, Popes Grove, Twickenham, organised by St James' Church. Contact [stjameschrislunch@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschrislunch@gmail.com) 07690 406434.

**The Richmond Care Leavers Christmas Day Dinner** - "I am writing a BIG BIG thank you. Everything you did for us was above my expectations and definitely put a big smile on my face throughout the day ... " (Christmas Day Dinner Guest). In 2017 local nurse, Sian Thomas, led a group of volunteers from across the community and local businesses to create a magical Christmas Day for 50 care leavers, which both touched and inspired all who were involved in it. The plans for 2018 are well underway and it needs your support. This year the group includes care leavers who attended last year who wanted to help make the same experience possible for others. There are lots of ways to get involved including gift wrapping, helping to decorate the venue, purchasing a gift from the Amazon wish list and clearing up after the event. You can find out more about the day and see a video from last year's celebration at [www.christmasdayrichmond.com](http://www.christmasdayrichmond.com). The Facebook page at The Christmas Day Dinner Richmond upon Thames is best for up-to-date information and requests, and you can contact them for more information and to offer help at [christmasdayrichmond@gmail.com](mailto:christmasdayrichmond@gmail.com).

## **One-Off Events and Fundraising Volunteer Opportunities**

**Run Santa Run!!** The Princess Alice Hospice is looking for volunteers to help with registering and marshalling for their Santa Fun Runs in November and December. This year they will be holding runs in Bushy Park (9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December), Richmond Park (1<sup>st</sup> December) and a new venue at Painshill Park in Cobham (25<sup>th</sup> November). They are great fun and festive occasions and raise vital funds to support the work of the hospice that provides care services to those across South West London and Surrey. More information about the roles can be found at <https://www.pah.org.uk/santafunrun/about-us/volunteering/>

**SPEAR** based in Richmond supports single homeless people across Richmond, Wandsworth and Merton. They have a range of volunteering opportunities across the year and, in the lead up to Christmas, need carol singers and support at fundraising activities, as well as welfare donations. You can sign up for their newsletter at [www.spearlondon.org](http://www.spearlondon.org) or click on Get Involved to find out about their latest opportunities.

**Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH)** are running a night shelter in central Kingston for anyone in Kingston in need of shelter. The Haven is open every night of the week from now until the end of March 2019. More information at <https://www.kcah.org.uk/>. To volunteer e-mail [winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk](mailto:winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk)

**Environmental Activity** - If you want to get outdoors, flex your muscles and enjoy the company of other likeminded volunteers there are plenty of opportunities all the way through December including over the Christmas period.

- South West London Environmental Network's Get Involved Pages [https://swlen.org.uk/events/action~agenda/page\\_offset~4/request\\_format~json/](https://swlen.org.uk/events/action~agenda/page_offset~4/request_format~json/)
- The Conservation Volunteers [www.tcv.org.uk](http://www.tcv.org.uk)

## **Other London-wide ideas**

**Community Christmas** has the mission that no older person should be on their own on Christmas Day unless they want to be. Their website lists events and you can search for opportunities near you that are seeking volunteers by putting in your postcode. <https://communitychristmas.org.uk/map/>

**The Londonist magazine** has produced an interesting selection of volunteering ideas across London in 2018 - <https://londonist.com/london/christmas-in-london/where-to-volunteer-in-london-at-christmas>