

Volunteering Opportunities with the Vulnerable Syrian Refugee Consortium

1. Storehouse North Down and Ards / Kiltonga Christian Centre

Opportunity: maintaining the Syrian refugee storeroom, where the Consortium collate Starter Packs to give to newly arrived refugee families, sorting and displaying clothes throughout the warehouse, collating Starter Packs as part of a team.

For more information, please contact:

Helen Sloan

Tel: 07748235009

Email: helen.sloan@kiltongacc.co.uk

2. British Red Cross

Opportunity: Refugee Support, admin support, Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme support.

For more information, please contact:

Geraldine O'Neill

Email: GONeill@redcross.org.uk

3. Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC)

Opportunity: providing an ESOL programme for Progressors & Absolute Beginners in 4-6 Donegall Street Place, Belfast.

Monday to Thursday from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 2.00 to 4.00pm respectively.

We also offer Conversation classes for Intermediate learners on Wednesday from 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

For more information, please contact:

Claudia Belloni

Tel: 029 9096 1111

Email: ESOL@burc.org

4. Barnardos

Handy Person

The purpose of the volunteer position is to do odd jobs and include things such as installing blind cords and stair gates, putting up shelves, building flat pack furniture, changing lightbulbs, replacing batteries in smoke alarms and hanging curtains or blinds. It can often be difficult to find tradespeople willing to do such minor jobs.

Travel Buddy

The purpose of the position is to provide the families with support to use public transport to reach appointments, accompany them to English language classes, job fayres or events throughout Northern Ireland. Arabic/ English resources will be provided to make the volunteer and family feel comfortable and capable to communicate if neither is proficient enough in English or Arabic.

Playroom Volunteer

Two welcome centres are held in Belfast over five days every eight weeks. We currently run a playroom in each welcome centre for children ages 0-12 to play and learn about what life in Northern Ireland will be like. We are looking for volunteers to support Play Leaders to deliver the sessions and welcome children in their first few days into Northern Ireland.

Support, Supervision, Training

Potential volunteers will be required to attend an interview to assess suitability and attend induction training prior to starting. This training will include a service induction including some basic Arabic. Induction training including safeguarding training and supervision will be provided by the service.

What's in it for me?

You can make a difference to a Syrian's family's new life in Northern Ireland and be someone they will remember as having been a positive part of their journey in settling here.

For more information, please contact:

Bebhinn Murray

Tel: 07767440470

Email: bebhinn.murray@barnardos.org.uk

5. SOS Bus NI

Opportunity: SOS Bus works in partnership with other charities to deliver transport to vulnerable refugees from Syria arriving in NI. SOS NI utilise four mini-buses, working alongside partner organisations to welcome and transport newly arrived refugee families to their new homes. Volunteers are needed to drive the mini-buses in support of this and for additional projects with other charitable organisations in and around Belfast.

All applicants are required to complete compulsory training.

To become a Driver you must –

- be at least 25 years old
- have had a full driving license for at least 2 years
- have less than 3 points on your current license

You do not need any past experience to get involved in the driving of the mini-buses. Anyone without experience can book in for an assessment with Swift Transport Training.

For more information, please contact:

Caitlin McCartney

Tel: 028 90664505

Email: caitlin.mccartney@sosbusni.com