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**Therapeutic Horticulture Support Volunteer**

**(Volunteer position with possibility of paid sessional work for right candidates)**

**Location:** Martineau Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7UG

Martineau Gardens is an established therapeutic Community Garden, close to Birmingham city centre. The organically maintained land provides a place to learn, to heal, to connect with nature and to play. The Gardens are tended by a community of volunteers, many of whom experience mental health issues, have learning difficulties or other support needs. The volunteers are led by horticultural therapists who take an holistic approach to each individual’s wellbeing. Martineau Gardens is open six days a week, as a tranquil place that is free for all to visit.  <https://martineau-gardens.org.uk/about-us/>

We are looking for people with good gardening knowledge who wish to enhance their skills and gain hands-on experience of social and therapeutic gardening. Our volunteers have a range of support needs from mental health, autism spectrum disorder, learning disability, dementia or traumatic brain injury. We strive to make a difference to our volunteers’ lives by being inclusive, non-judgemental and giving everybody a purpose, a sense of achievement and something to look forward to.

**Role description:**

●    To ensure a safe, friendly and welcoming environment for all.

●    To assist the therapeutic horticulture programme leaders by helping volunteers to complete tasks in the garden.

●    To help with setting up sessions and clearing up afterwards.

●    To carry out routine maintenance of tools and equipment.

●    To contribute to development plans and project evaluations.

**We will provide:**

●     Two days of induction training with our skilled therapeutic horticulture programme leaders.

●     Staff supervision and a go-to person for advice.

●     A reference on request for future opportunities.

**Your commitment**:

* To volunteer one or two days per week on a regular basis during our weekday opening times, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
* To be willing to work outdoors in all weathers.
* To undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS), due to being directly involved with supporting adults at risk (Martineau Gardens will arrange this at no cost to yourself).

**Person specification:**

●     Gardening experience and a commitment to supporting and encouraging our volunteers is essential, the following are desirable:

* Experience of managing small groups.

●     Experience of working with adults with mental health needs, autism spectrum disorderp, brain injury, dementia or learning disabilities.

●     Good communication and group skills, including group decision-making.

●      An interest in green woodworking and enthusiasm for nature, wildlife and protecting the natural environment is desirable.

If you have any further questions about this volunteer role please contact Jane Bradshaw: [**jane@martineau-gardens.org.uk**](mailto:jane@martineau-gardens.org.uk) Tel: 0121 440 7430

**To apply:** Please email [info@martineau-gardens.org.uk](mailto:info@martineau-gardens.org.uk) to request an application form, or call the number above.

Please email your completed form to:  [**jane@martineau-gardens.org.uk**](mailto:jane@martineau-gardens.org.uk)or mail it to Martineau Gardens, 27 Priory Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7UG

**Closing date:**  ongoing