

# **Children's and Families' Activities Coordinator**

Christian CARE Association

## **Could this be YOU?**

**In this community-based, independent charity which befriends and offers practical support to families in dire poverty, you would be the advocate for the children.**

### **What does the role involve?**

- You would lead a capable, committed team of 4 volunteers who arrange annual events – an outing, a party, a family holiday, summer camp placements and all the related transport.
- You would make sure each child's birthday is remembered, that there is a gift at Christmas and keep in touch with their parents over issues that arise within the families.
- You would meet six times a year with the CARE Coordinator and the Coordinators of the other Projects to plan, discuss and manage the overall work of the charity, but informal contacts can go on all the time with your colleagues.
- You would come to the Office Hub on average twice a month in the daytime, during the week, for team or one-to-one meetings, and can access administrative support there.
- You should have a pleasant phone manner and be proficient in using the internet and email as, in this flexible role, the planning and organisation can be done from home in a few hours a week.
- You would be encouraged to visit families, and would find it helpful and stimulating to build up contacts in the community.

### **Who are we looking for?**

- Are you someone with good management skills and adaptable as a team member?
- Do you have some experience of work with children perhaps through the health service, schools, social care or other volunteering?
- Do you have an awareness of and concern about the effects of poverty on family life?
- Can you bring imagination and creativity to the role to help us develop a varied and changing programme of activities for the youngsters and their families?
- Are you in sympathy with the ethos and aims of the charity?

### **What difference can you make?**

- You can facilitate breakthroughs out of loneliness and isolation for the families, helping them to discover new opportunities locally.
- You can open up new experiences and different worlds when before they have been so constrained by their impoverished circumstances.
- You can ensure that the children do not miss out on things that their friends enjoy, like experience of the theatre, so that they do not feel different from their peers.

- You can help the youngsters develop independence and confidence, and give them opportunities to make new friendships, by time at residential camps in the countryside.

### **What do we offer you?**

- When you volunteer for Christian CARE, you join a community of like-minded people with a common cause and, across different backgrounds and cultures, you make new friends.
- There is individual support and group training, and as a team leader you will be offered encouragement, advice and guidance so that you can develop new skills.
- Perhaps the greatest satisfaction comes from the response of the families in their overwhelming gratitude for even the smallest kindness, and then there is the joy of seeing them, little by little, make progress in their lives.

### **More about Christian CARE Association**

Christian CARE was founded 55 years ago for the relief of poverty in the London Borough of Merton and today, in this cost of living crisis, our holistic work is needed more than ever.

We run an office which supports our 5 Projects:

Befriending

Family Support – provision of food, toiletries, baby items, household cleaning products

Furniture Project

Children's and Baby Clothes

Children's and Families' Activities

We are unique among the charities in Merton in that we are a 'multibank', but more than a multibank because we establish long term relationships with our client families.

The charity has 60 volunteers and we help over 100 families each year. We reach out to people of all backgrounds and cultures who are referred to us by social services, the NHS, other charities or may self-refer. We received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2017, our 50th year.

**To find out more and to request an application form contact Gillian Thick, CARE Coordinator:**

**[gillian.thick@christiancaremerton.org.uk](mailto:gillian.thick@christiancaremerton.org.uk) / 07932 628840**