



Electric Umbrella Session Volunteer

Job Description

About Electric Umbrella:

At Electric Umbrella we believe there is no us and them, and are on a mission to challenge people to think differently about learning disabilities. Co-creation and a 'can do' attitude is at the heart of what Electric Umbrella is all about.

Over the past 4 years, we have been collaborating with professional musicians and adults with learning disabilities to write, experience and perform music at small pubs, big festivals, live radio and everything in between. Meeting weekly in Rickmansworth, Hemel Hempstead and Watford, Electric Umbrella provide 60 adults with learning disabilities countless opportunities to get on stage alongside professional musicians and show the public at large what they CAN do, challenging the perception of people with learning disabilities with thousands of people each year.

Moving forward, we are using this approach to provide regular meaningful social interaction, a purpose, a sense of worth, and a belonging in the community through togetherness, and sharing time and experiences shoulder to shoulder with: musicians, technicians, artists, chefs, retailers, couriers, artisans, hairdressers, athletes...the list goes on...and ultimately CHALLENGING THE PERCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES.

Volunteering with Electric Umbrella is YOUR opportunity to join our movement, challenge perceptions and create a sense of purpose and worth for some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Overall Purpose:

To support adults with learning disabilities attending Electric Umbrella sessions to engage and integrate as fully as possible with the group and all activity during weekly sessions. This might include encouraging conversation between members at lunchtime, making it possible for a member to try something new, or getting stuck in with the session and modelling how we are expecting members to engage.

Days and locations:

We are looking for volunteers to attend our sessions on a regular basis whether it be weekly, fortnightly or monthly. All sessions run from 12.30pm - 3pm on Monday's in Hemel, Thursday's in Watford and Friday's in Rickmansworth as well as ad hoc gigs and events during evening and weekends.

Electric Umbrella are challenging the perception of people with learning disabilities by empowering and enriching lives through music.

Main Duties and responsibilities

- To help set up the room ready for lunch.
- To bring a packed lunch and eat with the members between 12.30pm and 1pm, encouraging conversation and helping to facilitate meaningful social interaction.
- Encourage every member to take part.
- Support the session leader.
- Be flexible and get stuck in.
- Help pack up equipment and get the room straight at the end.
- Contribute to the session review with the session leader at the end of the session.
- Help out at gigs and events where available.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Electric Umbrella Session Volunteer.

Previous experience is not required. Just a willingness to get stuck in and constantly find solutions to make things possible for our members.

A large part of the role involves enjoying the sessions, and modelling the way in which we are expecting members to engage. A can-do attitude and a solutions-based approach will enable members to achieve things that they might not have ever known was possible!

Good time-keeping and prompt arrival will enable the session to run without interruptions.

Commitment to the role and getting to know the members will be the key to enabling each member to reach their full potential.

Volunteers are not expected to provide personal care (medication, toilet breaks etc.).

This role requires the volunteer has a satisfactory DBS check.

Volunteers must be over the age of 18.

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1165164

What you can expect from volunteering at Electric Umbrella:

- Relevant training
- Induction to the organisation and the volunteer role
- To feel fully supported in the role
- Agreed expenses (eg.travel)
- Increased knowledge and experience of adults with learning disabilities
- A new challenge and the chance to make a difference to people's lives
- To feel appreciated and valued for your contribution
- An opportunity to think differently
- An abundance of joy!

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