

Supermarket Food Collectors - Volunteer Role

Overview of the Role:

Volunteers are needed to collect donated food from collection baskets in supermarkets in Stratford. It is hoped that volunteers could help at least once a month. This role will require the use of your own vehicle. Once food is collected it should then be delivered to the Foodbank's warehouse on the car park at Tesco. This work, most likely, will need to involve daytime commitment, calling in at Waitrose, Tesco, Morrison's or Budgens at Bidford, emptying the food collection basket and delivering food to the warehouse on a Monday or Wednesday afternoon between 2pm – 3.30pm.

What is Stratford upon Avon Foodbank?

Stratford Foodbank is an independent charity helping local people in crisis. This is done by providing food parcels to people referred by partner referral agencies, and providing 'signposting' information to those visiting the Foodbank to help improve their situation. Stratford Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's network of 400+ foodbanks, and benefits from operational guidance provided by the Trust. In 2019 an average 201 food parcels a month were distributed. Distribution sessions and warehousing operates from the Foodbank's cabin on the carpark at Tesco's Birmingham Road store. Currently largely funded by Stratford's Town Trust, the Foodbank has a board of Trustees to guide its work and benefits from a Foodbank Manager employed five days a week to work with volunteers and oversee the operation.

Time commitment

Two – four hours a week, once a month minimum.

Requirements

- Light lifting and bending to empty food collection baskets and transfer food to the warehouse
- Safe lifting guidance will be provided
- Access to a car
- Access to email and a mobile phone
- Your collection day will be agreed by monthly rota, a volunteer would be expected to be available at least once a month
- Ability to work on under own initiative, support always available from the Foodbank Manager
- All volunteers doing this type of volunteering work should check with their car insurance company that they are covered (in our experience there is not usually an issue with this)

Description of possible tasks

- To collect food from local supermarkets
- To deliver that food to the Foodbank warehouse on Tesco carpark
- To label food deliveries so warehouse volunteers recognise it as food that needs to be needs 'weighed in'
- To sign the warehouse day book at time of food delivery
- To liaise with the (Volunteer) Rota Coordinator for Supermarket Collections as necessary
- To feedback any supermarket issues that are made known to you at point of collection
- Full training and guidance will be given

What's in it for me?

By volunteering with Stratford Foodbank, you will have the opportunity to make new friends, use your existing skills and develop new ones. Although it should be noted this work will mainly be 'lone working'. Your efforts will make a huge difference to those in our local area who are struggling and need of support to work through their crisis. Whilst no one wishes the Foodbank should exist, you will find the friendship and camaraderie amongst our team of volunteers immensely rewarding.

How to apply

If you are interested please email Marion Homer (the Foodbank Manager) on volunteer.suafoodbank@gmail.com stating reasons for suitability. Screening interviews may be held, and all applicants will need to provide the names of two referees.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This role description reflects the hopes and intentions of the charity and is not intended to be contractually binding on either party, or to form a contract of employment. Please note that the Foodbank is Christian organisation and welcomes volunteers of all faiths and none.

For more information

Please read the task description above – should you have any further questions please email Marion Homer the Foodbank Manager on volunteer.suafoodbank@gmail.com or call on 07736 611323 for more information.