

## **Euston Foodbank volunteers training 4th April**

Euston Foodbank volunteers training

Firstly, apologies that it has taken longer than we wished to set up the next training sessions for volunteers. We have been busy with developing new ways of working due to the coronavirus, which also means we have to restrict the number of prospective volunteers who can come to each session, so please only attend if your place is confirmed. So do respond promptly to this email if you want to do the training on 4th April. The next opportunity will be after Easter on 18th April, so if you would prefer to ask to reserve a place on that training, make this clear, and we will accommodate as many of you as we can safely have in the hall at two metres distance from each other.

### **Information about Euston Foodbank volunteer training - thank you for asking**

The next training session, will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1:30-4pm at the foodbank.

Venue: [1 Lancing St NW1 1NA](#) off Eversholt St, on the east side of Euston station.

Please reply by email [info@euston.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@euston.foodbank.org.uk) if you want to ask to book or confirm a place on the training.

**the introduction session on Saturday is [1:30-2pm](#) and the training 2-4pm.**

Quite a large number of people are curious about the foodbank and many ask to volunteer, so we hold information sessions approximately every six weeks with the opportunity to stay on and complete an application form and attend initial training.

You will need to attend the introduction before doing the initial training, as that information will not be repeated. You will need to attend the training before you can volunteer at a distribution session. You are welcome to attend just the introduction if you would like to find out more about the foodbank, and decide whether training as a volunteer and volunteering at a food bank is for you.

If you are currently or recently a food bank client, it would be better to leave a gap before volunteering at our foodbank, perhaps six months until you have settled into managing your household without emergency foodbank packages. There are many other volunteering opportunities in Camden – check the Camden VAC website: <https://vac.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering>

The Foodbank has volunteering opportunities available for people over 18 years old. Younger people must be accompanied at all times by a family member over 18 who can take full responsibility for them, so we do not normally recruit younger volunteers, except for supermarket collection type of events. If you would be interested in a supermarket collection let us know and we can contact you when we will be collecting.

We may be collecting money and donations of food, for instance outside a venue such as the Roundhouse or Apollo when there is a queue for a sympathetic act, so let us know if you would be up for a shift of an hour or so as part of a team.

For volunteering at our distribution sessions we need reliable people who could commit to attending regularly, at least once a month, preferably fortnightly or weekly, for two hour sessions at the foodbank distribution sessions. We organise the rotas through a doodlepoll, we will send a link once you have completed the training and application and we have taken up references.

The main volunteering roles are sorting stock, assembling the food baskets, and receiving and serving clients. Now in times of pandemic we are organising distribution at a safe distance, with masks, gloves and aprons available. If you are in a vulnerable group, self isolating or have reservations about delivering this key public service, part of providing food to vulnerable people, then this is not the volunteering for you.

We currently schedule volunteer sessions Tuesdays 1130-4:30pm, Thursdays 5:15-7:30, Saturdays [10:30am-1pm](#), Sundays [1:30-4pm](#) to cover our opening times.

These sessions begin before and continue for half an hour after closing so we can set up and then clean and tidy before the next session so set aside over two hours - we don't want mice! I know this feels less glamorous than serving people, but hygiene is incredibly important. Sometimes we need extra time to finish serving the clients who arrive a minute before closing time.

Sometimes we organise stock sorting sessions on Thursday afternoons, or open especially on another day or stay later on Saturday afternoons to reorganise. The last Saturday afternoon in the month is a popular sorting session.

Prior to attending the training session you will find it helpful to read the general information on our website [www.euston.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.euston.foodbank.org.uk)

People wanting to volunteer with website and social media skills: we would like you to complete induction and training and sign up for and complete sessions so that you understand enough about what we are doing to write content for the website and tweets, so if you could start with that. It is a Wordpress site, with a standard Trussell Trust format, so it is not difficult to update, it is finding the time to write the content.

If you have the skills needed for advice signposting please let us know, as it would be good to open dedicated advice sessions for Foodbank clients.

Our volunteering work at the Foodbank is not particularly glamorous, and usually involves a lot of unloading and lifting and carrying, though there is also date checking and sorting. Basically we are about redistributing non-perishable food so that people in need around Euston and neighbouring inner London areas have enough to eat and are supported in solving their circumstances as far as possible. This is only possible through the generosity of local people donating food, time and money.

**If this is the volunteering you are looking for, please reply asking to book a place on the training session where you can complete the application forms. Currently due to the volume of offers to volunteer we are holding these introduction/application/initial training sessions as detailed above, not offering one to one visits or induction.**