



Joan Hubbard

Background

For Joan, volunteering has been a way of life since she was a teenager. Her long association with the sector began during the 1940s when she was asked to become a secretary for her local youth club. She quickly developed an interest in helping to give people a voice, and achieved considerable success working with the now redundant Norfolk Park Community Forum.

Responding to a need

During her early twenties, Joan's association with the voluntary sector grew. She worked with the Parochial Church Fund and the Young Wives Club, before she moving to the Norfolk Park estate in 1964.

As a young mother she persuaded the council to lay paving in the gardens of properties to allow residents to hang their washing out. She also helped to establish the Norfolk Park Community Forum which was formed to engage with residents and help protect their rights.

After spending many years involved with the tenants association, Joan became involved in the trade union movement. She recognised that the support staff in the school she worked in were often undervalued and assisted them in re-grading their pay structure.

"I'm the youngest of six children" she says, "and I am sure this has played a role in me getting involved with the voluntary sector and helping individuals to realise their full potential."



PROFILE IN BRIEF

Joan Hubbard

Who do you work with?:

- Norfolk Park Community Forum
- The Diabetic Support Group
- The Free Skip Service
- Sheffield Foyer

"The best thing about volunteering for me is finding out information and sharing it with others. It helps people to overcome many different forms of problems. It's a thoroughly liberating experience. I've met some brilliant people and made loads of friends. It's not so much about providing a service, for me it's a way of life."

Amazing achievements

During her time at Norfolk Park, Joan was part of a group responsible for the construction of the estate's social centre and community hall, which was built in 1967. Her work with the Community Forum also attracted the attention of students from the University Sheffield where she was subsequently invited to discuss the issues relating to regeneration and the impact of living through regeneration.

After devoting over 50 years of her life to the voluntary sector, Joan recently completed a course in IT, her first ever formal qualification.



Looking ahead

Today, Joan remains very much involved with the voluntary sector, assisting on a number of projects originally instigated by the Norfolk Park Community Forum; including the Diabetic Support Group and Sheffield Foyer. She acts as a receptionist for the initiatives and shares her wealth of knowledge and experience.

Her initial plans to retire at 75 have very much been put on hold!

For more information on getting involved with volunteering contact your local volunteer centre.

Doncaster Volunteer Centre

Doncaster CVS Volunteer Bureau,
Units 5 & 6 Trafford Court,
DONCASTER
South Yorkshire
DN1 1PN

Tel: 01302 343300 **Fax:** 01302 321121

Email: doncastervb@doncastercvs.org.uk

Website: www.doncastercvs.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon 10 - 2 , Tues 10 - 3, Thurs 2 - 7

Sheffield Volunteer Centre

The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane,
SHEFFIELD
South Yorkshire
S1 4FW

Tel: 0114 253 6600 **Fax:** 0114 2536601

Email: vc@vas.org.uk

Website: www.vas.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon - Thurs 10.00 - 4.00

Volunteer Centre Barnsley

33 Queens Road
BARNSELY,
South Yorkshire
S71 1AN

Tel: 01226 295 905 **Fax:** 01226 206 580

Email: volunteer@vabarnsley.org.uk

Website: www.vabarnsley.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00 - 4.30

Volunteers Centre Rotherham

Voluntary Action Rotherham,
Durlston House
5 Moorgate Road,
ROTHERHAM
South Yorkshire
S60 2EN

Tel: 01709 834464 **Fax:** 01709 829822

Email: volunteering@varotherham.org.uk

Website: www.varotherham.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 - 4:00