Events Assistant

CANINE PARTNERS

What does the charity do?

Canine Partners is a registered charity that assists people with disabilities to enjoy a greater independence and quality of life through the provision of specially trained dogs, whose well-being is a key consideration. The Charity is working closely with the uniformed services to provide assistance dogs to those injured while on active duty.

More than 1.2 million people in the UK use a wheelchair, and a significant number of those would benefit from a canine partner. The dogs are carefully matched to the applicant's needs and lifestyle, no matter how challenging. They are trained to help with everyday tasks such as opening and shutting doors, unloading the washing machine, picking up dropped items, pressing buttons and switches and getting help in an emergency. The Charity aims to train dogs to meet the needs of people with even the most complex disabilities including members of HM Armed Forces.

These life transforming dogs also provide practical, physiological, psychological and social benefits including increased independence and confidence as well as increased motivation and self-esteem. A canine partner also brings companionship, a sense of security and increases social interaction.

What is the opportunity?

To be able to provide disabled people in Essex with access to a canine partner, the Essex Satellite is looking for volunteers to help out at Canine Partners' organised events and third party events. We need your support and enthusiasm to help us raise awareness and be part of the local face of Canine Partners, helping us to generate vital funds and raising the profile of the Charity so that we can help even more people with a disability.

What will I be doing?

- Helping at Canine Partners' organised events such as our annual Bluebell Walk, Information Sessions and other events.
- Helping at third party organised events like country shows, school fetes, dog shows etc
- Acting as an ambassador for Canine Partners by building community networks and in talking enthusiastically about the work of the Charity at such events.
- Distributing promotional leaflets for Canine Partners and selling merchandise.
- Liaising with the local fundraising office to keep up-to-date with Canine Partners' local & national events, activities and future direction and to share successes and best practice.
- Complying with legal requirements e.g. health & safety legislation for fundraising events and Canine Partners' internal policies

What are the objectives?

- To raise money to support Canine Partners' objectives
- To assist the Charity to provide assistance dogs to disabled people.
- To raise the awareness of, and increase support for, Canine Partners in the Essex area
- To make a difference in the local community and build strong community networks

What skills and abilities should I have?

- Good communicator
- Able to use own initiative
- Team player with passion and enthusiasm
- Honest and reliable
- An interest in helping disabled people and dogs as well as the services that Canine Partners provides, and to be able to positively promote the Charity to members of the public

Do I need my own transport?

Not necessarily, but access to vehicle/good transport links may be beneficial.

How much time is required?

Flexible time commitment

When do you need me to work?

Events could take place at any time during the day or evening and some weekends.

Where is the role based?

Anywhere within Essex

Are there benefits for me?

- Meeting and working with new and inspiring people
- Developing your skills
- Adding to your CV
- Making a difference to your local community
- The satisfaction of helping improve the lives of people affected by disability
- Meeting a fantastic range of dogs from new puppies in training to fully qualified canine partners
- Having fun, sharing your enthusiasm and doing something new!

Will I be provided with training?

You will be given an induction to help familiarise you with the Canine Partners' organisation & events nationally & locally, and your local fundraising team.

What ongoing support/guidance is there?

- Support from staff and other volunteers within Canine Partners in Essex and nationally, with the opportunity to meet and network during the year
- Updates on the success of the team as well as Canine Partners' campaigns, events, achievements and future direction.
- Canine Partners' shirts will be provided as and when required.

Will my expenses be paid?

We pay volunteers' 'out-of-pocket' expenses within agreed guidelines.

What do I do next?

Please contact the Essex Fundraising Office, details below

Canine Partners
Moulsham Mill
Parkway
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 7PX

Tel: 01245 608355