

YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS:

Title: First name:

Surname:

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....Post Code:.....

E-mail:.....

Telephones: Home:.....

Work:.....

Mobile:.....

Date of birth:.....

How did you find out about volunteering at

DENS?.....

.....

NB: All staff working directly with DENS clients

go through CRB -police checked procedure and

references are required

Reference 1 (professional contact)

Title:First name:

Surname:

Organisation:

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....Post Code:

Telephone:.....

Email:

Reference 2 (personal contact not family)

Title: First name:

Surname:

Organisation:

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....Post Code:

Telephone:.....

Email:

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DENS is a volunteer organisation

From it's inception volunteers have been centrally involved in the organisation and running of DENS. Currently there are approximately a 100 volunteers working in a wide variety of ways to help homeless people.

How do I join?

If you would like to know more, 'phone Sandra on Mondays between 9am and 1pm on 01442 262274 or e- mail sandra.williams@dens.org.uk

To go ahead with volunteering, fill out the application form. When DENS has received a response from your references, an informal interview will be arranged to agree an area in which you can work. Induction training is given when appropriate.

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“I love the job because every evening is so different — you never know what’s going to happen or who’s going to come through the door. Knowing that we can just be here for a person at the time they need us most and that they’re thankful for that makes it worth the rest of the challenges”!

Dan (Project Worker)



Action Against Homelessness

**ONCE IN A WHILE
AN OPPORTUNITY
ARISES TO DO
SOMETHING OF
LASTING VALUE
FOR SOMEONE IN
REAL NEED**

**VOLUNTEER WITH
DENS TODAY**

Bury Lodge, 1 Queensway,
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1HT
Tele: 01442 275900, Fax: 01442 265687
E-mail:office@dens.org.uk
Web Site: www.DENS.org.uk

“The biggest contributor to DENS is not government, council or business, it’s volunteers giving of their time, free of charge”.
DENS Board Member

DENS IS....
an independent Charity established in 1998 by a group of individuals responding to a community need to care for homeless people. DENS has progressed from humble beginnings in Church halls to a full-time operation with a Night Shelter, Move On Accommodation and a Temporary Day Centre.

Where are homeless people?
From all over the Dacorum area, encompassing Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring, population 130,000 people.

Dacorum does not have a ‘cardboard city’, but DENS estimates that somewhere in the region of 100 people are homeless each day, living on the streets, in derelict cars, tents, waiting rooms on friend’s sofas or in hostels. Homelessness has different causes such as relationship breakdown, mental health or addictive problems. It can happen to anyone at any time as a consequence of a series of circumstances cascading out of control.

“I love the variety of people you meet and it feels like you’re doing something useful”.
Roger (DENS Volunteer)

What’s the Problem?

Whilst DENS is making a difference to homeless people, if we had more money, staff and resources we could achieve so much more. DENS needs willing, committed and reliable volunteers to help bridge this gap, and make a significant difference to the lives of homeless people in Dacorum.

Through your participation, you can help support the vision of DENS by taking ‘Action Against Homelessness’. DENS welcomes volunteers who bring fresh ideas, energy, enthusiasm and commitment, to help DENS run efficiently and launch new projects. *You can make a difference*, giving back to the community in a fresh and creative way!

“It’s lovely seeing the joy on people’s faces when you arrive with an armload of hot food”.
Gretchen (DENS Volunteer)

“That was delicious”.
Darren (Night Shelter Guest)

Why Volunteer?

The public often have a misconception of homeless people. Most are not rough sleepers or anti social. Homeless people appreciate volunteer workers.

Research has proven that volunteering

- Leads to a happier and healthier life style
- Develops skills and confidence
- Provides excellent opportunities for group or team building exercises
- Generates a sense of pride and satisfaction in a much needed job well done

AREAS I WOULD LIKE TO WORK IN

A variety of work exists to match a wide range of skills. Listed below are the areas in which DENS currently needs additional support. Please indicate the tasks which most interest you and the frequency with which you could work by circling as appropriate.

Promotion/Fundraising:

Writing copy, sourcing and completing grant applications, developing fundraising enterprises, running events, administration, circulating collection boxes and displays, manning displays, distributing and collecting gift envelopes, mail shots, phoning contacts, designing leaflets, web site editing, contacting businesses, speaking at schools/ organizations/churches, helping during DENS week.

Client Work:

Day time in the Day Centre or evenings in the Night Shelter—preparing food, playing games, chatting, mentoring, supporting clients, overnight shifts.

DENS Distribution:

Helping to redistribute gifts from the community to those in need—collecting/delivering food (own transport required), sorting donations, visiting businesses, administration/co-ordination.

Administration:

Database, minute taking, computing, manning reception, accountancy, management skills (Marketing, Business), volunteer co-ordination and other administration jobs.

Practical Work:

Gardening, decorating, cleaning, DIY, odd jobs, driving

How often could you work with DENS?

- Daily, Weekly, Monthly
- Emergency support as required
- Morning, afternoons, evening, nights
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Return to:

DENS, Bury Lodge, 1 Queensway
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1HT

