



Samaritans

Compassion Integrity Justice

Volunteer Opportunities

We believe a volunteer is:

Someone who freely and willingly chooses to undertake an activity

Someone who gives his or her time and skill and receives no monetary reward

Someone who provides a service, which benefits and adds value to the community (other than family and friends)

Are you ready to embark on a rewarding and fulfilling experience?

Do you think you might like to offer your help but not sure what you could be assisting with?

Do you want to do something that not only helps build stronger communities but enhances the quality of your own life?

The following pages outline opportunities that may be available for you as a volunteer. Not all services may have vacancies, but this can be discussed in more detail during your phone interview....

Emergency Relief (locations include Mayfield, Adamstown, Teralba, Cessnock, Gorokan, Windale, East Maitland, Morisset, Taree, Toukley and Wyoming)

Each month Samaritans provides more than 1,000 families with emergency assistance and relief throughout the Hunter and Central Coast regions. In these times of an increasing gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots” Samaritans is experiencing an increasing demand for these services and a changing profile of people requiring assistance. Samaritans volunteers provide direct and practical assistance to those in need. Assistance includes utility vouchers, clothing, food parcels, financial advice and referral to other community services. There are nine offices and over 100 volunteers work on a roster basis to provide support and advice – this work would not happen without the dedication and commitment of the volunteers.

Samaritans Disaster Recovery (Locations in most Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Central Coast, Lower and Upper Hunter, Port Stephens and Taree/Manning areas)

Samaritans Anglican Diocese of Newcastle is a member of Anglicare Australia. Anglicare is part of the State Emergency Management structure under the State Disaster Recovery Plan as a community partner. Samaritans Emergency Services Programme has several trained Disaster Recovery teams in the Newcastle, Hunter, Central Coast and Manning areas. The 2007 June weekend storms and flooding highlights the importance of having trained teams ready to provide effective help to the families and communities affected. Our Disaster Recovery Teams offer general support which means we may be asked to assist in any area from collecting information to providing food to organising accommodation to filling a newly identified need of disaster affected persons. Our role is varied and is an essential part of the plan; our teams are trained in all areas of a Recovery Centre operation.

Friendship House (located in the Newcastle area – Maryville/Broadmeadow)

Friendship House was established in 1994 by the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches, as a Life after Prison Ministry to provide accommodation and support service for ex-offenders leaving Cessnock Correctional Facility. Friendship House provides accommodation for up to two men at a time for up to 28 days. The volunteer role at Friendship House involves supporting the men and assisting them with their transition back into mainstream society. A driver's licence is required in this position.

Home For Good (located in Broadmeadow and wherever the client may live)

Home For Good is part of Corrective Services Chaplaincy, working with people either released from prison or serving a non-custodial sentence. Our volunteers undertake a role in mentoring, running programs, and helping with our weekly BBQ. Mentors keep track of clients with a phone call or two each week and a meeting over coffee every two weeks. The role of the mentor is to assist the client to focus on their own goals. Programs are needed for relationships, life skills, and parenting/family dynamics. We run a weekly community BBQ and chapel time on Thursday evenings and volunteers help with setting up, cooking, cleaning up.

Stibbard Court (located at Edgeworth)

Margaret Stibbard Close is a six-unit complex located in Edgeworth that provides accommodation for men over the age of 55 who were homeless. It was named after the late Mrs Margaret Stibbard, wife of the Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, a tireless campaigner for people in need. The complex consists of six units housing up to eight residents. Volunteers are involved in visiting these often lonely and isolated clients.

Kinship Care (Grandparents as Parents – GAPS) (groups currently running at Gorokan, Morisset, Fennel Bay, Cessnock, Raymond Terrace, Harrington, Mayfield and Charlestown)

This service supports the increasing number of Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. These important and valuable members of our community are a marginalised group who do not fit into any specific category recognised by institutions and agencies. The Kinship Care programme assists grandparent/s who are full time carer/s of their grandchildren. The grandparents are in the role of primary caregivers. Volunteers will be required to assist the Co-ordinator in running the programme, including help to run support groups, administration support to the programme and provide support as required to the grandparents.

Recycling Stores (located in Mayfield, Hamilton South, Wallsend, Nelson Bay, Cessnock, Maitland, Gosford, Cardiff)

Pre-loved clothing, bric-a-brac and other assorted goods are donated to our nine Op Shops and through our collections bins, inspected and either sold or given to those in need. The funds raised from operating the shops support other Samaritans services. Volunteers are able to undertake a number of roles that include sorting of donations, tagging and pricing items, steaming and hanging clothes, displaying items on shop floor, serving customers, processing sales and opening and closing the store and other retail related tasks. Volunteers also needed

Samaritans Information & Neighbourhood Centre (SINC)

Located in **Cessnock**, SINC provides information, support and referral, providing a vital community link for emergency assistance and the coordination of local domestic violence and suicide prevention initiatives. Volunteers will be assisting in providing a wide range of information, referrals and other services to the local Cessnock community. Volunteers may also assist in other community projects that are located within SINC, including Click and Squiz Internet Cafe, the Tool Library and Great Strides (Movies in the Park).

Cessnock Shed and Community Garden

The CSCG aim is to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the **Cessnock** Community by providing a place where people can go to participate in a variety of activities. These include gardening/potting shed activities, and various trade activities such as wood work and metal work. Volunteers are involved with set up and supervision of the shed and garden and various mentoring roles working with groups of youth, disabled persons and elderly dementia clients. The programme is run by a committee and participation on this committee is also welcomed.

Event Support (assistance required in both Newcastle and Central Coast)

Samaritans stages a number of annual events to raise funds and profile, such as the Business Breakfast, Collectors Care Art Exhibition, Bin Fashion 2 Fashion, Golf Day, and Christmas Lunch in the Park and other community events. Volunteers are needed to help with many different roles at these events. For example: setting up, registration, selling raffle tickets, making up gift bags, catering and waiting, pack up and clean up and administrative support.