

# VOLUNTEERING

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Can my child volunteer at Exodus?**

The minimum age for volunteers is 14 years. Children must register with us and can only volunteer under the supervision of an adult (who also registers with us and has a Working with Children Check) until they turn 17 years old, when they can volunteer without supervision.

### **When can I start?**

Volunteers are required to complete all stages of the recruitment process before they can start volunteering with us. This includes attending a mandatory information session, which take place every 3 months.

### **Why is the information session mandatory?**

The information session is your opportunity to meet Rev. Bill Crews and some of the team, to have a site tour and to learn in more detail about the work we do and the volunteer roles. It is important for us to meet all our volunteers so we can get to know you and ensure that the volunteers we recruit have the appropriate skills and attitude reflective of our organisation. This is also a great opportunity for you to ask questions and to see if we are the right place for you.

### **How often can I volunteer?**

You may choose to participate on a regular basis. As a guide, many of our volunteers do so once or twice a week. Alternatively, you can opt to be on our casual roster. We send email requests for volunteer assistance on a weekly basis, which allows our volunteers to participate as often or as little as they wish.

### **Can I volunteer on the food vans?**

The minimum age for volunteering on our food vans is 18 years and positions are limited. You are welcome to volunteer for available shifts on the food vans once you have completed the recruitment process and carried out a trial breakfast or lunch shift in the Loaves & Fishes Restaurant.

### **Can I volunteer in the office?**

From time to time we have opportunities for volunteers to assist in our administration building and in our Social, Health & Wellbeing clinic. These vacancies are advertised on our website when available. Please contact us if you have specific skills or qualifications that you would like to share on a voluntary basis.

### **Can I volunteer on a short-term basis?**

Our Volunteer programs are not suitable for people requiring work placement to complete courses or degrees, for example. Due to the training and investment the Rev. Bill Crews Foundation provides our volunteers, our programs are unsuitable for short term volunteering.

### **I use the services provided by the Rev. Bill Crews Foundation. Can I volunteer?**

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate you as a volunteer at the Rev. Bill Crews Foundation if you have used any of our services within the past 2 years.

### **Can I volunteer with my colleagues/peers?**

The Rev. Bill Crews Foundation used to be able to accommodate groups of up to 10 volunteers from workplaces, schools and community groups to assist at the Loaves and Fishes Restaurant for the Lunch Service. Due to COVID-19 restrictions group volunteering opportunities are not available at the present time, but this may change according to government policy. You can express your interest in organising a group volunteering experience with us by emailing [volunteering@billcrews.org](mailto:volunteering@billcrews.org).

### **Do I need to wear a uniform?**

All volunteers (except those working in the office) are required to wear the correct Personal Protective Clothing (PPE). This includes a sleeved T-shirt (no singlets), long pants and closed toed shoes in accordance with Workplace Health & Safety regulations. Individual volunteers will be issued an Exodus Foundation T-shirt and apron if volunteering in Food Services.

### **Will any checks be done on me?**

Yes. All individual volunteers must undergo a Working with Children Check. This is free to obtain for volunteering purposes; it can be used for other volunteer programs and is valid for 5 years.

### **Why do I need a Working with Children Check?**

The Rev. Bill Crews Foundation is committed to providing a safe working environment for all. Children are often on site, whether they be guests or volunteering as part of a school or community group. All volunteers aged 18 and above must have a valid NSW Working with Children Check number before applying for a position.

### **Can I volunteer on Christmas Day?**

We start recruiting for our Christmas Day volunteers in October, so please check our website or contact us then. The same rules and recruitment process will apply for new Christmas Day volunteers.

**If you have any further questions, please contact our Volunteering Department on (02) 8752 4674 or via email at [volunteering@billcrews.org](mailto:volunteering@billcrews.org)**