



WORK INSPIRATION – Charity and Voluntary Sector

Charity and voluntary sector careers are directly linked to helping others and it is one of the areas in which employees have the highest job satisfaction. There is a vast array of opportunities available from IT to finance to HR.

Benefits to working in the Charity and Voluntary sector

A sector which offers fulfilling opportunities which aid a vast array of causes:

- A **sense of fulfilment**, particularly if you have a passion for the charity's ethos and values
- **Meet a range of inspirational people** from a wide range of backgrounds. Dependent on the charities remit, there could be an opportunity for international travel and postings, which would open the door to further inspiring work
- **Job security**, in general charities are less likely to take risks compared to private firms and are less likely to suffer financially compared to firms that focus purely on profit

- Working in the charity or voluntary sector can have **good pay and benefits** as they normally want staff to have a long-term career with them

Skills needed for a job in the Charity and Voluntary sector

- Enthusiasm
- Teamworking and people skills
- Communication skills
- Administration and organisational skills
- Commercial and business awareness
- Proactive and flexible

Work Inspiration
An initiative of



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland

Why a career in the Charity and Voluntary sector

- At **Target Jobs** find out about what [types of opportunities](#) there are in the charity sector.
- **Prospects** has an [overview of the third sector](#) and details some of the main charity employers. It highlights [key issues facing the third sector](#).
- **Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)** has an [article](#) on working in the charitable sector
- **Bright Network** details [7 types of roles](#) within the charity sector, along with [8 skills and qualities](#) needed to work there and information on [how to get into charity work](#)
- **Charity Job** highlights [how charity salaries compare](#) and has [an article on what soft skills are needed](#) to work in the charity sector.
 - What it is like to [work for a conservation charity](#)
 - What it is like to [work for a mental health charity](#)
 - How to [work for an animal charity](#)
 - [Moving careers](#) from private to charity sector
 - How to get into a [career in fundraising](#)
 - How to [get started with an environmental charity](#)
- **Reach Volunteering** gives you [an insight in the voluntary sector](#) and what areas it covers, how it impacts your community
- The **University of Edinburgh Careers Service** has information on [charity career opportunities](#)

- **Prospects** details how you can [secure a graduate charity job](#). If you have a dream of working in International Development, it details [courses](#) that can assist you in achieving that dream. Explore a range of career opportunities:
 - [Advice Worker](#)
 - [Charity Officer](#)
 - [Charity Fundraiser](#)
 - [Community Development Worker](#)
 - [Community Education Officer](#)
 - [Volunteer Coordinator](#)
- **Oxford Scholastica Academy** - [What is the 3rd Sector?](#) – find out all the information you need

Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)

NICVA is an umbrella body which lobbies and campaigns for the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

[Find out all about](#) its members from large to small organisations and the scope of its influence in giving practical advice, training, and representation to government to those it supports.

Updated March 2023

To find out more about our Work Inspiration programme, please contact [Joanne Mehaffy](#) or visit www.workinspiration-ni.com