



Job Description

Job Title	Children's Support Worker
Salary	£12 per hour
Hours	Bank Worker – 0 hours contract
Location	The Joshua Tree Family Support Centre, Sandiway, Cheshire
Reports to	Family Support Manager

The Joshua Tree Charity's Vision and Values:

Vision

We provide bespoke programmes of support to improve the emotional well-being and mental health of all immediate and extended family members, who are affected by childhood cancers, in Northwest England and North Wales, for as long as they need it.

Values

Our values underpin all that we do and govern our external and internal behaviour. Our five values have the following meaning:

Deliver

We use our expertise in delivering our priorities by putting beneficiaries first. We are clear and timely in our decision making, ensuring that all who interact with us understand our aims.

Innovate

We enable individuals to be creative, by generating and implementing ideas that promote our vision and mission to support families caring for a child with cancer.

Courage

We are determined to make a difference by having courage to try new ideas that reflect beneficiaries' changing needs.

Enthuse

We create energy and enthusiasm, celebrating our successes and individual achievements, trusting each other to make decisions and are accountable for our work and provide each other with support.

Respect

We act with integrity, ethically and free from bias, valuing diversity and treating each other well. We act in an open and transparent way, promoting and sharing good practice.

Compassion

We show care, kindness, understanding, sensitivity and empathy to our beneficiaries and to all who come into contact with our charity.

About The Joshua Tree

The Joshua Tree Charity, was founded in 2006 by Lynda and David Hill after their son was diagnosed with leukaemia and discovered a distinct lack in support services for all family members during the traumatic experience of childhood cancer.

The focus remains at the heart of the charity, to continue to offer support to the whole family, from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. The Joshua Tree specifically recognises that post-treatment can be a challenging time, when families are having to adapt to their `new normal` and the charity offers support to help bridge the gap that's left when the safety net of treatment ends.

The Family Support Team are dedicated to working closely with families, recognising that every family's cancer journey is unique and tailor the services to suit the family's specific needs, by means of emotional support. This includes face to face and online support through well-being programmes, counselling, art therapy, therapeutic play, health and wellbeing advice and reengagement with education where required.

It is an incredibly exciting time for the Charity as the new fit-for-purpose Family Support Centre in Sandiway, Cheshire, opened in May 2021 - in response to the growing demand for the charity's support service from North West and North Wales families affected by childhood cancer. The centre provides an appropriate environment for families, accommodating children of all ages from toddlers through to teenagers and features a welcoming heart space, a multi-functional activity room, counselling suites, soft play and sensory equipment, a games room, office facilities, an outdoor play area and landscaped gardens.

We also provide remote support to our families based in North Wales through regular face to face activities.

The Role

As part of our family support service, The Joshua Tree provides opportunities for all members of our families to connect with and gain support from our team of support workers. This includes children and young people that are newly diagnosed with cancer, on treatment and post treatment, as well as siblings and wider young family members. By developing a positive, trusting and caring ongoing professional relationship with the children and their families, the families will feel comfortable and confident in visiting the centre on a regular basis.

The key purpose of this role is to deliver a high quality, child focused programme of activities for children aged 0 to 18 affected by childhood cancer. The aim of Bank Family Support Worker role is to enable the centre to be open more in the evenings and weekends therefore offering families additional opportunities to engage.

It will be important to maintain the playroom, teenage areas and playground at the Support Centre, manage the safety of the families whilst in the building and implement our stringent infection control measures.

The role of Bank Support Worker will require the successful candidates to be able to engage and communicate effectively with families. It is important to be able to actively listen and know the ways in which the Joshua Tree can support them.

The nature of work is hugely rewarding it can also be emotionally demanding. A full induction programme and training will be provided and we are a very supportive team, offering regular supervision and reflection time to support emotional wellbeing.

Key Responsibilities

Providing a welcoming, safe and child-centred environment

- Work with line manager, to develop and maintain a welcoming and child-friendly environment within the centre and encourage the children's ownership of the play area through art displays, celebrations of work, achievements and relevant information. Likewise, with the teenage area;
- Work alongside the Family Support Team and Volunteers to ensure families are welcomed into the centre;
- Communicate effectively and professionally with children and their families;
- Be committed to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children at all times, by adhering to the robust safeguarding procedures and attending all relevant training programmes;
- Ensure infection control and health and safety policies and procedures are maintained and followed;
- Maintain resources and equipment within the playroom; teen room and outdoor area.

Supporting children and young people with the impact of childhood cancers

- Be a trusted, caring and reliable person that our beneficiaries can talk openly to, by developing positive and consistent working relationships;
- Assist in providing information and advice to families on therapeutic support and coping strategies;
- Deliver a timetables of play opportunities, events and activities inside and outdoors to encourage fun, enjoyment, normality, physical and emotional wellbeing, including regular family weekend and holiday sessions;
- Provide regular opportunities for beneficiaries and siblings to connect with peers who have had similar experiences.

General responsibilities

- Actively engage with Reflection and Supervision to enhance personal wellbeing and practice;
- Ensure records are kept up to date;
- Adhere to all The Joshua Tree policies and procedures;
- Take on other duties as may be required to fulfil the objectives of the role;

- Opening up and shut down of the support centre before and after session

This job description should be seen as enabling rather than restrictive and will be subject to regular review.

The Joshua Tree is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to a DBS check. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of offenders Act 1974.

Please email the completed form to recruitment@thejoshuatree.org.uk or post to The Joshua Tree, Dalesfords Lane, Sandiway, Cheshire, CW8 2GW

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the role please ring our office on 01606 331858 and ask to speak to Danielle Percival or email daniellepercival@thejoshuatree.org.uk