



Helping Hands

practical help through volunteering





Could you supply our Helping Hands?

WellChild is the national charity for sick children. We provide practical help and support to young people and their families as they deal with the consequences of serious illness and complex conditions.

WellChild Helping Hands is a unique volunteering scheme that works by managing hands-on projects for teams from community-focused companies or organisations right across the UK.

Our projects usually take 1 – 3 days and mainly take place in the homes of children and young people. They include activities such as painting, gardening, furniture assembly, etc.

All projects are guided on-site by the Helping Hands team, who will also arrange any skilled or specialised work required. The volunteers provide the manpower and enthusiasm needed to change children's lives for the better. Groups of any size can take part, with larger projects such as hospitals and schools occasionally available in addition to the more regular home-based projects.

How your company can benefit:

Taking part in a WellChild Helping Hands project provides a range of benefits for any participating company or organisation and the individual volunteers involved.

Demonstrating a presence in the community is an important priority for most commercial organisations, and Helping Hands provides a cost-effective, direct and tangible route for companies to demonstrate a level of social responsibility.

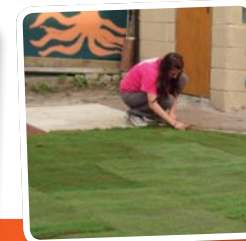
Companies who have already taken advantage of the Helping Hands opportunity have discovered the outstanding team-building experience it delivers, with most of those organisations now seeing the option of volunteering as a reward to their employees.

Helping Hands projects provide immediate and visible solutions to problems for seriously ill children and draw outstanding coverage from all levels of the media. This serves to further enhance the company's socially responsible activities, and the pride felt by the individuals in an important job well done.

How the children and families benefit:

Caring for a seriously ill child or looking after a young person with complex care needs is very challenging and time-consuming.

Many families find that jobs such as decorating and gardening stay at the bottom of the list for months on end just because there aren't enough hours in the day. In addition, many children return from hospital after serious illness or injury to homes and gardens that are no longer suitable for their needs. The generous support of the companies we are involved with allows us to provide solutions to these problems, giving help to families who can be overwhelmed by the demands of caring for a seriously sick child.



Feedback from previous projects:

A great team building exercise, especially working with colleagues I don't usually work closely with. Everyone enjoyed the worthwhile feeling of doing something good for someone else, and seeing the real benefits to the family.

HSBC team member

As a company, we want our employees to help local communities, and we find that Helping Hands is a great way to volunteer and also to make a tangible difference to a family or child in need. Our involvement with WellChild is a positive way of engaging with the community and promoting our reputation as a responsible company.

James Wallace, Royal Sun Alliance

My overall experience of working with WellChild was amazing and unbelievable, and I cannot think how it could be improved. Hadiya will now be able to access the whole of the garden where before she could only watch her brother and sister playing.

Hadiya's father on their garden makeover

We are so pleased with the outcome of this project; to have done so much work in so little time is amazing. We haven't seen Abir respond to his surroundings so positively for 2 years – he is reaching, looking and touching all the time. It's amazing, thank you so much.

Abir's family on his bedroom makeover



HELPING HANDS PROVIDES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPANIES AND CHARITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE



Who are WellChild?

WellChild – the national charity for sick children – help children and their families throughout the UK as they deal with the consequences of serious illness and complex conditions.

We focus on three key areas – Care, Support and Research – and through this we have touched the lives of many thousands of children and families, and we want to reach many thousands more.

For more information on our far-reaching activities, please visit www.wellchild.org.uk



Get involved

The list of children, families and organisations needing support from WellChild Helping Hands volunteers gets longer every day – and we have projects to suit companies and organisations of all types and sizes.

The WellChild Helping Hands Manager and the rest of the team work closely with all the families and institutions we support to ensure that each project's individual requirements are clearly identified and attainable.

In addition, WellChild appoint a member of our team to work alongside each team of volunteers before, during and after the project – making sure that each company or organisation achieves the aims set out at the beginning of the process. The WellChild communications department also work with all our volunteering organisations to maximise all elements of media coverage where relevant.

WellChild's work is funded by people and organisations across the UK, and without that support we wouldn't be able to provide the services that are so vital to the thousands of children and families whose lives we touch. WellChild will manage your Helping Hands team volunteering days for free – but we do ask that you contribute towards the cost of the materials necessary to help these deserving children.



To find out more please contact the WellChild Helping Hands team:
phone 0845 458 8171, e-mail helpinghands@wellchild.org.uk,
or take a look at www.wellchild.org.uk