

Colchester CAP Debt Centre

Volunteer Befriender Co-ordinator Role

What are the Centre's Aims?

The aim of our centre is to release families in Colchester from poverty and debt through our debt counselling service. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a holistic Christian service, and we seek to provide extra support to help each family, through prayer support, through the practical help from our client blessing team, and through the community brought by friendship with a befriender.

We have seen over 500 client families in 8 years, and with CAP changing lives and bringing people to faith all around the country, we feel this is an exciting opportunity to be part of a real movement of God to help His poor.

What is a befriender?

A befriender is someone who has a passion for people and lives out what it means to build community. Being in debt is often linked to social isolation for many of our clients. Debt can mean having no disposable income to socialise with friends, carrying the stigma associated with being in debt and having low self-esteem. Many of our client's lives can be a little chaotic and full of fear regarding their situations.

At the CAP debt centre in Colchester, we aim for each befriender to bring life changing freedom and good news to people in desperate need. Always through the Church. Always hope.

Befrienders work closely with the Debt Coaches, accompanying them on visits and focusing on the non-debt related needs of the client, such as:

- Facilitating bringing the client into community
- Identifying hobbies and possible points of social connection
- Introducing the client to other CAP volunteers
- Providing assistance with practical tasks
- Sharing the gospel. We aim for each befriender to bring life changing freedom and good news to people in desperate need. Always through the Church. Always hope.

What is the Befriender Co-ordinator Role?

Colchester CAP Debt Centre have an amazing and established team of befrienders; the co-ordinator role is to make sure they are supported and equipped for the work they do. This involves helping them to feel connected in with the centre, being a point of contact for them, and providing training and support to new befrienders.

This role is client facing as well as helping all our befrienders feel part of the CAP family and would suit someone with great relationship-building skills, an open and completely non-judgmental nature, together with a heart and resilience to serve.

The role is flexible with regards to what elements you will undertake, as we recognise that all services operate under a CAP model but in very different church environments. We want to equip and empower you to undertake the role in a way which best fits you and your community.

What are we looking for?

- Great relationship-building skills
- Non-judgemental and caring
- Passionate about helping people and bringing hope to them
- Trustworthy in keeping confidential information
- In agreement with CAP's core values and statement of faith
- Willing to pray with the CAP team
- Understands the concept of keeping good boundaries
- Clearly demonstrates a heart and passion for the charity and the local church

We recognise that everyone brings their own unique strengths to each role and that God works through our weaknesses too. Undertaking a volunteer role is an opportunity to grow and develop as part of your centre team, co-ordinating the befrienders supported by your Centre assistant Manager.

What Next?

This role is voluntary (unpaid) and there are no fixed hours.

To apply or find out more please send a brief letter describing why you want to apply to patsimorgans@capuk.org

Further steps

Once you have decided with your Centre Manager to go ahead with this role, what availability you have and what roles you will undertake, please email nms@capuk.org to request your digital welcome pack. Work through your welcome pack which contains your training information. This training document contains video links for you to watch so you can familiarise yourself with CAP culture, it also contains essential information about GDPR and confidentiality.

1. Read the content and watch the videos at your own pace
2. Ask your centre manager if you have questions about how aspects of the training apply to your centre
3. Complete the GPPR quiz
4. Sign the confidentiality agreement, return a copy to your CAP centre manager who will store it securely.
5. Get stuck in with your new befriender co-ordinator role!