

Meet our volunteers

Cedric and Virginia have been volunteering at the Foundation office for two months. In this interview, they tell us more about their roles and their motivations for volunteering.

How did you first learn about the Foundation and why did you decide to volunteer for us?

Cedric: I've been working with several charities on a voluntary basis for the last eight months, and grant-making soon became an area of interest for me. I saw an opportunity on Charity Jobs to join the Foundation, and I was impressed by its reputation and its connections with Hilton. As I wanted to learn more about grant-making I realised joining the Foundation was the perfect opportunity for me.



Virginia: When I moved to England from Greece last year, I started to look for volunteering opportunities because I wanted to gain professional experience and improve my CV. I'm a psychologist specialised in special education, and therefore I wanted to volunteer for a charity that helps children with learning disabilities. The DM Thomas Foundation for Young People was a perfect match for me.

What do you do for the Foundation on a daily basis?

Cedric: I work in improving the online grant application process. My goal is to make this process more efficient for applicants and to reduce the administrative burden at the office. My background is in process improvement for private companies, so I'm trying to make use of those skills to help the Foundation.



Virginia: I provide administrative support to the Foundation. My work covers many areas: the database, the grants, the relationship with our supporters, and I also help administer the Charity Vouchers scheme.

What do you enjoy the most about volunteering for the Foundation?

Cedric: I love the variety of different activities in which I am involved. Every day has been different since I first joined the Foundation. This is very exciting, as it provides me with so many different learning opportunities.

Virginia: I love the fact that it is a very small team. I have felt very welcomed from the beginning; everyone is very kind to me and tries to make me feel comfortable. I also really like working on the Charity Vouchers scheme, as I believe it's a great way of helping smaller charities to fundraise. In general I feel that I'm gaining very valuable experience.

What has been your favourite moment so far?

Cedric: One obvious highlight was attending the Grants Committee Meeting two weeks ago and witnessing the grant giving decision process. I have also enjoyed working with the Director, Simon, in improving the Foundation's database.

What would you tell someone who is considering volunteering for a charity?

Cedric: Speaking from my personal experience I would say that volunteering is absolutely great, as it gives you very good exposure and allows you to bring in your skills and gain new ones, while making a difference for a good cause.