

## 4.3 What kind of volunteering can you do?

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You can volunteer in many different ways, depending on how much time you have and what needs to be done in your area. You can...

### **1. Help out at one off events or projects**

This is a great way to make a difference if your group can't commit to regular volunteering, e.g.

- ★ Organise or help out at an event for a local refugee organisation
- ★ Paint a community hall or tidy up a garden
- ★ Do a food/clothes collection for a destitution project
- ★ Hold a fundraising event

### **2. Volunteer in existing projects for local organisations**

There are loads of great projects with some really exciting volunteering opportunities out there that really need you help. Get in touch with STAR national to find out what is happening in your local area. Your group can promote local volunteering opportunities to STAR members and other students on campus. A good way to do this is to ask a member of staff at the project to come along and talk about the work they do at one of your meetings.

### **3. Set up your own STAR Student Led project**

Get your STAR group to take an active role in setting up and running a project in partnership with a local organisation. This could be a whole new project or adding something to an existing project e.g. running kids activities at a drop in which didn't have anything for children before

It is important to be realistic and make sure that you have enough time and people to make it happen. Some examples of successful STAR student led projects....

- ★ Birmingham STAR set up a homework club for young asylum seekers in partnership with the Birmingham SMILE project. Birmingham STAR are responsible for recruiting volunteers and ensuring there are enough volunteers each week. They also plan the activities that take place in the homework club. Birmingham SMILE provide a staff member to support the club, the venue and resources.
- ★ Liverpool STAR run a Refugee Women's social group in partnership with a local organisation, Global Inclusion. Liverpool STAR provide a venue at their University Union, purchase refreshments for the session and plan activities, They also organise termly outings for the women and their children. Global Inclusion provide support to the volunteers, funding for the activities and a staff member to support the session over holidays when the students are away.

If you want to set up your own project, go to section 4.5 to learn how.

**For all types of volunteering you'll need to work with at least one other organisation. We call these your 'partner organisation'. So for whatever you decide to do, go to section 4.4 for advice on how to find your partner.**