



## Our volunteering story



We wanted to show how volunteering had been a part of some of the CCVS staff members' journeys to where they are now. This is Chris's story

I didn't set out to volunteer it just sort of happened. A chance conversation with another mum about bulky toys in small terrace houses led to me getting involved in running a [toy library](#). I took my little boy with me and I helped run the sessions, got involved in raising funds for new toys and went along to the committee meetings. I met lots of new people and started to feel part of the local community. I also got my first experience of writing a press release, liaising with local authority staff and writing a safeguarding policy.

When my son moved on to school it was another chance conversation, this time with a teacher about the lack of play equipment that got me involved, along with others, in fundraising for extras in the school. I learned a huge amount about running events, communicating with people, motivating them to get involved and found kindness and generosity sometimes where least expected.

These experiences have left me with a strong sense of what communities can do to help themselves if they are given the right tools and the support. As a result I moved away from the work I had been doing for the previous decade, working in marketing and communications, and started a new career in the voluntary sector. Volunteering changed my perspective on the world and helped me feel part of my local community.