

What do all these people
have in common?

*Are you interested in becoming
a WERS volunteer?*

If so, give us a ring and have a chat about the
sort of work you would like to do.
Our Volunteer Co-ordinator is Carol Willis.



West End Refugee Service
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Opening times
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Office and Clothing Store:
9.30am - 12.30pm
Wednesday only
Office and Clothing Store
11.00am - 12.30pm



They are all volunteers!



West End Refugee Service is a charity which helps asylum seekers and refugees living in Newcastle upon Tyne.

WERS offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities including helping out at the project, fund-raising and befriending.

Marge, one of our volunteers explains what befriending is all about...

Be a friend

How would you like to be a befriender?

This was one of the suggestions made by a friend when I was researching around for some useful activity to occupy some of my new found spare time after many years of teaching.

Well, OK, just what does a befriender do?

This question - I now know - has numerous answers: sympathetic listener, English teacher, North East tour guide, translator, telephone operator, letter writer, confidence booster, provider of little treats, library guide.

The list could go on and on, but the best description was the first one that I heard from WERS when I started visiting three young asylum seekers in a house in the West End of Newcastle almost four years ago, "What they really need is a friendly face".

I am happy to continue to be a 'friendly face' and hope that it makes a little difference to people's lives.

In addition, my own home and family and secure way of life have become so much more precious and important to me. I am sure that the many befrienders who are attached to WERS feel the same way.

To any one who is thinking of becoming a volunteer please don't hesitate, give it a try.

