**Volunteer Role: Horticultural Buddy Mentor (x6 positions)**

Thank you for your interest in Organiclea’s Buddy Mentoring scheme. 

**We are currently asking people to express their interest for the February 2020 placements.** *The Buddy scheme runs for a fixed period, 3 times a year.*

**Please see the information regarding this volunteering placement. To get involved, there are 6 short questions at the end to help us understand your experiences so far and interest in this opportunity.**

**Details of the role:**

* Volunteer position
* 1 day a week for 12 weeks (out of 15 week time frame)
* Commencing either Wednesday 5 or Friday 7 February
* Hours: 10.30-4.30
* Complete a volunteer induction session at Hawkwood. If haven't already done this there is opportunity to do this between 11-1 on either Wednesday 15 January, or Friday 24 January or Wednesday 5 February.
* 2 midpoint tutorial sessions from 4:30 – 6pm to support you and your work. Dates to be agreed at placement start.

**Aims of the role:**

* The buddy placement at the Hawkwood Plant Nursery offers a structured opportunity to be part of a learning team set up to 'buddy' other volunteers who have support needs - including neurodiversity and recovery from mental ill health.
* We partner you with individuals to support them to participate, helping to build confidence and achieve agreed goals.
* Helping to maintain a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment.
* Information about how buddying and referrals work at Organiclea with a focus on food growing, people and permaculture. An overview of support needs you might encounter with guidance on responding to these appropriately. Safeguarding and Health & Safety guidance.

**Over the 12 weeks you will:**

* Achieve AQA Award: Supporting Volunteers to take part in a community project.
* Experience supporting individuals to participate in a community garden setting.
* Gain insights into organising linked to Organiclea's volunteering programme of activities and events.
* Work with a designated contact person and be supported in regular end of day reflective practice.
* Be part of the horticultural team and the work that links people with plants here at Hawkwood.

**Main duties & responsibilities**

* Mindful presence on site - acting as a participant’s point of contact.
* Amend tasks appropriately to match participant’s ability level.
* Partner with individuals to enable them to participate, complete forms and worksheets.
* Support participants to realise and achieve goals.
* Assist with site-wide horticultural and related tasks.
* Liaise with task leaders regarding suitable activities for participants.
* Share insight into your experience during end of day team reflective practice.

**Skills required:**

Horticultural Buddies enjoy gardening, are excited about being involved in organic food growing and supporting others to do the same. We are looking for people who are patient, empathetic and committed to diversity and inclusion.

**If this opportunity interests you, please respond to the following questions by Monday 20 January - sending to volunteering@organiclea.org.uk**

1. Why are you interested in becoming a Buddy Mentor?
2. Which day are you available for this placement (Wednesday or Friday)?
3. Are you available for 12 weekly sessions plus an induction day (if needed) starting on 29January **or** 31January 2020? (placement to be completed by the end of April 2020). N.B: The sessions can be completed over 15 weeks - days away agreed in advance.
4. Do you have any skills, experience, or qualities you feel you could bring to this buddying role? Please also share any horticultural qualifications, or organic gardening experience.
5. Will you need any adjustments to be made regarding accessibility or dietary needs for the induction/placement?
6. Have you already completed a volunteer induction session at Hawkwood? If not are you available for one of the following; between 11-1 on either Wednesday 15 January, or Friday 24 January or Wednesday 5 February

Your questions also welcome!