

## Stories of Interest Volunteer

<b>Volunteer Title:</b>	Stories of Interest Volunteer
<b>Project:</b>	NLHF: Voices Through Time: The Story of Care
<b>Reporting to</b>	Youth Engagement Coordinator, working closely with the programme Archivist and Volunteer Coordinator
<b>Location:</b>	Working from home, with occasional visits to the London Metropolitan Archive and Coram campus office
<b>Salary Range:</b>	Voluntary
<b>Minimum Commitment:</b>	12 hours per month (worked flexibly) For a minimum of 6 months
<b>Contract Type</b>	N/A

### **About Coram**

Coram is the UK children's charity that has been supporting vulnerable children for more than 275 years and is still finding new ways to help children. Coram helps children and young people develop their skills and emotional health, finds adoptive parents and upholds children's rights; creating a change that lasts a lifetime. We now help a million children and young people every year and comprise a continuing narrative as the oldest children's charity and birthplace of children's social care.

### **About *Voices through Time: The Story of Care***

*Voices through Time: The Story of Care* is a National Lottery Heritage funded project to digitise Coram's Foundling Hospital archive, and make it available to a wide audience online, so people can learn about its history and that of children in care over time. These archive records are being transcribed through a crowd-sourcing volunteer transcription project.

The project is also delivering a series of creative projects with young people with lived experience of the care system. Using the archive as inspiration, young people will create films, exhibitions, theatre and other creative outputs, talking about their own experiences, and sharing these with the general public, in an effort to change attitudes about care-experienced young people.



better chances  
for children  
since 1739



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**

### **Purpose of the Role:**

To research and uncover the stories of former pupils at the historic Foundling Hospital from the 1730s to the early 20th Century, using primary source documents from our archive, located at the London Metropolitan Archives.

To support the Archivist, Archive Engagement Intern and Social Historian in providing these source archive materials for the *Voices Through Time* programme, focusing on the lives of former Foundling Hospital pupils.

Coram recognises the value that our volunteers bring to the organisation and seeks to create volunteering opportunities that are meaningful, well-supported and mutually beneficial.

### **Main Duties & Responsibilities:**

With the programme Archivist and the Archive Intern:

- Become familiar with the Foundling Hospital archive.
- Identify records in the archive / digitised records which can tell the story of the life of former pupils at the Foundling Hospital.

Individually:

- Learn about the Foundling Hospital through reading, research, visiting the London Metropolitan Archive, and viewing the digitised archive records.
- Research the story of individuals, using the archival documents and other public records.
- Present stories of Foundlings to young people participating in our creative project *Feature Foundlings*.
- Share the stories of Foundling pupils in a regular article / blog piece about a "Feature Foundling".
- Share about your experience of volunteering on social media and on the Coramstory website.
- Share your research findings with other volunteers on the project, e.g. Transcribers, Ambassadors.
- Help the *Voices Through Time* team to organise events related to the archive.
- Encourage and engage in discussion about the records in the transcription project message board.

### **Person Specification**

- A demonstrable interest in archives, heritage and/or social history from 1730 onwards.
- A passion for history and an interest in the history of the Foundling Hospital.
- A respect for archive materials, and an understanding of their sometimes fragile nature.
- An enthusiasm for telling the stories of young people.
- Excellent writing skills.
- Confidence; good interpersonal skills; an ability to communicate openly; and a proven ability to work well in a team.
- Good organisational and administrative skills; an ability to meet deadlines and maintain records.
- Good general computer literacy.

Desirable

- Experience of research in history or the social sciences.
- Experience of engaging on creative projects.

## Opportunities

By volunteering, you will become part of the continuing story of the UK's longest-serving children's charity and have access to the following opportunities whilst you are with us:

- Skills development in research, presenting, writing, being creative with archival records.
- The opportunity to delve into our archive and access primary source material.
- The opportunity to take part in a unique public history project.
- The option to join (or to help organise) Coram events, such as Transcribathons, where you will connect with other volunteers and Coram staff.
- Discount membership to the *Coram Society* – a social history organisation which will encourage wider participation in the online archive and continuing engagement with our social history.
- Travel and food expenses paid on the days you are visiting the archive or Coram office.