

JACQUELINE - A ONE YEAR ON VOLUNTEER'S STORY

What did you do?

Due to a change of circumstances Jacqueline found she had some spare time to volunteer. She contacted Salford CVS during the Volunteers' Week celebrations in June 2022 and met up with the Volunteer Centre for a 1:1 volunteering appointment.

Grace met with Jacqui for an informal chat about the type of volunteering opportunities available, especially those that suited her personality and skill set. Jacqueline finally expressed an interest in the respite sitting role with the charity Being There, which is a fantastic organisation supporting people with life limiting conditions.

being there



life limiting illness support

Support received

ONE TO ONE
WITH
VOLUNTEER
CENTRE
SALFORD



How did it go?

Jacqueline had been a carer for her mum in the past so she knew the difficulties that carers have to contend with when looking after someone who is ill. She wanted to support these carers so that they could have some 'very much needed' alone time - having a bath in peace, going for a walk, attending appointments or catching up with family and friends. After Jacqueline completed Being There's training she was matched with Brian and Edith. Caring for someone 24/7 is very demanding and, like many carers, they often have their own health issues. Brian, a Being There client, was diagnosed with cancer and needed to have chemotherapy treatment. As his wife has low level dementia, she was unable to attend the appointments with him. He therefore approached Being There for respite support, so that he could attend his important appointments while the volunteer sat with his wife safely in his home.

At the first meeting, the Salford Branch Manager introduced Jacqueline to the married couple. Jacqueline was very engaging and spent some time getting to know them both. Brian stated the dates and times of his upcoming appointments, so Jacqueline knew in advance when she was needed. She sat with Edith once a week for several hours, over a period of six weeks which allowed Brian to complete his chemotherapy treatment.

What are your reflections one year on?

"My experience of respite sitting was a joy. We both enjoyed a good chat and a laugh and consequently the time went quickly for Edith as she worried about Brian when he was at his appointments. Brian would ring up half way through his chemotherapy to check Edith was comfortable and happy. The relief in his voice was palpable when Edith reassured him everything was ok. I would thoroughly recommend volunteering, it has been an enriching experience for me."



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