

THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER – 5786

September 2025 – August 2026 at JVN



Some might call this year the Jewish community's year of the volunteer. Starting early in October, security, paramedic, and wellbeing volunteers were thrown into the spotlight when numerous sad incidents of violence, shock and uncertainty rocked our community.

Away from the headlines, JVN saw many more hero volunteers step forward to give their time, skills and compassion to support organisations under increased pressure and to help those around them feel less alone.

500+ Volunteers

Placed into roles by JVN

50+ Charities

Got a volunteer through JVN

8 Regions

In our UK network

JVN helps Jewish people connect with opportunities where they feel most comfortable and familiar. We also provide high-value in-kind resources to charities, helping them adapt and overcome challenges in the charity sector. By working with volunteers and charities, we make volunteering simple, meaningful, and impactful.

“When you volunteer, you'd be amazed at the people you meet, the friendships you form ... You can't put a value on that. It's all about the social connection. As you get older, you need to maintain that, or you get distant from society.” – **Russell, Volunteer at Headroom (Jami)**

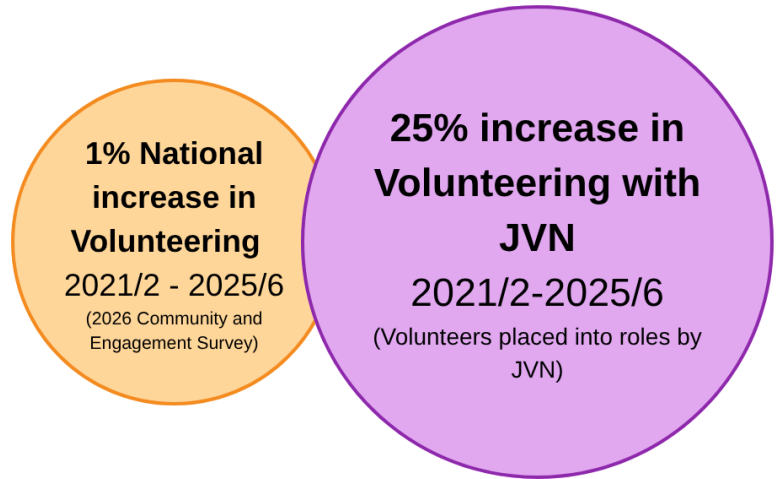
JEWISH VOLUNTEERS BEATING THE ODDS

In August, the UK Government published its 2026 Community Life & Engagement Survey. Once again, it shows that British Jews are volunteering at the highest percentage of any faith group.

At a time when national volunteering participation has fallen significantly, JVN is beating the odds and is engaging more volunteers than ever.

The Community Life & Engagement Survey saw a 1% relative increase in volunteering from 2021/22 to 2024/25.

JVN recorded a **25% increase** in volunteers in the same period.



SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS CHARITIES

JVN is a small team with a wide reach. We work efficiently by sharing expertise, collaborating closely and making the most of our systems and resources.

We support grassroots charities by providing a central place to recruit and connect with people looking to volunteer. Through our database, charities can promote their opportunities to a wide network of potential volunteers, helping them reach beyond their existing contacts and making recruitment simpler and more accessible.



OUT AND ABOUT: JVN SUMMER ROADSHOW

Our Volunteer Broker, Angie, has been out and about through all seasons, meeting both new and familiar volunteers. A quick chat with Angie helps people realise that a perfect volunteering role could be far more achievable than they think.

This summer's dry weather made for perfect roadshowing conditions, and I was able to get out to some of Northwest London's finest bagel and rugelach establishments. I was lucky enough to have a different cheerful volunteer with me every time, and their experience was invaluable when we were having conversations with prospective volunteers.

It was great to interact with customers and passersby, some of whom proudly told us they already volunteer or have volunteered with JVN.

Saving the best till last, our top spot, as always was Kelman's butchers in Bushey – friendliest locals and staff.

Angie

Angie, JVN Volunteer Broker



“Thank you so much, Angie. Your warmth, care and encouragement are what inspired me to keep volunteering wholeheartedly whenever I can. So, if I’m a superstar, you’re the whole galaxy”. - **Tesfabrahan, Volunteer**

JVN AWARDS 2025

JVN celebrated over **100 winners from 54 charities** at this year's Annual Awards. With the theme 'A Lifetime of Volunteering', we were honoured to present **28 Lifetime Awards** to individuals who have volunteered for over 25 years.

Natasha, a young adult with autism, received our Young Adult Volunteer of the Year Award for her dedicated volunteering, making communication cards to assist non-verbal children at Kisharon Langdon.

We had made provisions for Natasha to receive her award at her table, as her family told us she could often become overwhelmed by noise and crowds. However, when her name was read out, no one could stop Natasha running to the stage to receive her Award and give a heartwarming thank you to everyone in the room.



Natasha receiving her Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award



Frank at the Living Volunteer Archive launch

At the Awards, we launched our new Living Volunteer Archive. This walk-through exhibit consisted of 4 screens and 29 foamboard easels, showcasing the stories of 29 amazing individuals who have dedicated over 25 years to volunteering.

The Archive records the story of volunteers like Frank, who has spent a lifetime using his experience as a Jewish person to advocate for other marginalised groups. Starting with his advocacy in Working Men's clubs 60 years ago in Coventry, Frank has volunteered ever since and cooks for Ukrainian Refugees once a week.

LOOKING FORWARDS

In January, JVN conducted its own community survey to better understand the current landscape of Jewish volunteering and how we can respond to the changing needs of volunteers.

Responses came from a broad cross-section of the community and showed that Jewish people greatly value volunteering.

Some encouraging feedback from respondents includes:

80%

Said that Volunteering was important to how they saw themselves as a Jewish person.

95%

Said Volunteering had a positive impact on their wellbeing

70%

Could recall receiving regular emails from JVN about Volunteering

Looking to the year ahead, JVN are developing more ways to engage volunteers and support the charitable sector. These include our goals to....

- **Get volunteer opportunities in front of more than 1000 people weekly, by registering more people to our database and mailing list.**
- **Run dedicated Young Adult events and opportunities, helping university leavers progress into impactful voluntary roles.**
- **Connect more skilled professionals with Trustee and Governance roles, supporting a vital aspect of charity infrastructure.**
- **Help Volunteer Managers to train and support volunteers working with vulnerable people.**
- **Promote Volunteering as a lifeline to those not in Education, Employment, or Training.**

“*JVN makes it so easy. They help us as a small charity to identify who we want to take on and what the recruitment process needs to look like*”

– Jack, Trustee of The Together Plan

THANK YOU!

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on the progress made over the past year and continuing to strengthen volunteering across the Jewish community and beyond. None of this would be possible without the support of donors who share our belief in the power of volunteering to change lives, strengthen communities and create lasting social impact – like yourselves

Thank you!

