



**I really enjoyed the opportunity to give some of my time to such a good cause...I found it quite inspirational the way COT supports adults with learning disability to live independently and take control of their lives”** DWP employee volunteering on our horticulture project

## Corporate Volunteering with Canterbury Oast Trust

### About our charity

We support adults with learning disability, sometimes complex, to live more independently and to take control of their lives by providing a home, personal development, learning and inspiring work experiences. We operate as a commercial enterprise running a number of training projects which help to generate income to support our work including:

- Rare Breeds Centre: our 100 acre farm which is open to the public and attracts over 80,000 visitors per year.
- The Mariners': our busy tea room in Rye, East Sussex.
- Poulton Wood: our 28 acre woodland conservation project.
- Rainbow Gallery: a vibrant art project which welcomes over 100 artists.
- Plants and Produce: our horticulture project growing thousands of plants for sale to the public.





### What can we offer you?

Located within the pretty village of Woodchurch, just south of Ashford in Kent, our 100 acre farm, with ample free parking, on-site restaurant and conferencing facilities, offers the perfect setting for corporate volunteering days! Our countryside location, with rolling hills and stunning woodland provides the chance to escape the office for a day and give back to the local community.

We guarantee to make good use of your time and ensure your staff leaves knowing they have made a real difference!

Our charity needs your help with a diverse range of activities to suit groups of all sizes and abilities. All get people working as team, using their skills and having fun together! Some examples are:

- Working in our residential homes including redecoration of rooms and garden maintenance.
- Conservation work at our Poulton Wood nature reserve, maintenance of our Discovery Garden or commemorative woodland Rainbow Wood.
- Assisting our students and staff with planting and potting in our horticulture training project.
- Dressing our farm attraction for key events such as Halloween and Christmas.

To ensure all runs smoothly we will plan your day with us in advance. On arrival a warm welcome is guaranteed followed by a full briefing on the day ahead and on-going support to ensure we make the most of your valuable time.



### Working in partnership

Through volunteering with Canterbury Oast Trust we hope it is the start of a strong relationship. We value your hard work but also understand that volunteering offers the chance to strengthen team working and build awareness of your company's corporate social responsibility.

We will work with you to raise the profile of your company and our charity through appropriate

channels such as the local press, communications and our active social media channels.

Our charity is a jewel of the local community. Our largest social enterprise is our farm visitor attraction, the Rare Breeds Centre. With over 80,000 visitors per year it is one of the most popular searches for tourist attractions in Kent! We reach many families throughout the region as well as through our RBC and COT membership packages. With this in mind opportunities for public acknowledgement for your support are ample.

### **Our appreciation to you**

Our charity is passionate about what it does. We are particularly touched, therefore, when businesses share this passion and offer support either financially or by donating their time. Your support and time enables many of our projects to continue running as smoothly as possible.

Canterbury Oast Trust endeavours to accommodate the needs of all individual groups coming to volunteer with us. We offer dedicated support and enjoy building strong and lasting relationships in order to strengthen the impact that Canterbury Oast Trust has on the people in our care and within the local community.

**“We appreciate the time given and the hard work Volunteers give to the much needed tasks we are unable do.”**

Margaret Eva, Farm House and Farm View House Manager



### **We offer the perfect country venue for your next corporate event!**

Canterbury Oast Trust offers a number of facilities for corporate workshops, seminars, drinks receptions and events.

The Falcons Conference Centre is set in our 100 acre farm and offers the ideal space for workshops, seminars, drink receptions and events. It hosts a practical working environment in an impressive airy and modern barn style setting with a flexible capacity of up to 200 people with ample parking for guests.

Our smaller Kestrel Room offers board room style facilities for up to 12 people. Both rooms have access to a lovely terrace to enjoy.

We have an in-house catering service serving delicious and quality food from canapés to four course silver service dinners. The Falcons also hosts a fully licensed bar if you are planning an evening reception.



## Challenge yourself for COT!



Canterbury Oast Trust has a number of charity places in some fantastic events each year just waiting to be snapped up by keen runners, cyclist or walkers.

Entering a team from your company is a great opportunity for employees to work together and support a local charity at the same time!

### Do something different and support your local charity and benefit form:

- Networking opportunities
- Encouraging effective working relationships
- Opportunity for your employees to mix outside of the office
- Team development opportunities
- Helping your business to achieve your corporate responsibility goals

### Other ways your company could support our charity:

- Quiz nights
- Office bake sale and tombola's
- Charity of the Year nominations
- Match giving

**“Organising a fun event that everyone can get involved with, like a quiz night, is a great way to raise money towards your sponsorship and raise the charity profile at the same time!”**



Sarah Kirk  
Completed the British 10k in 2011,  
trekked the Great Wall of China in  
2012, ran the 10k Santa Fun Run,  
London in 2013 and competed in the  
2014 Dirty Dozen assault course all in  
aid of Canterbury Oast Trust.