

Embargoed until
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Over 40% of public have never volunteered... what's your excuse?

~British Heart Foundation (BHF) Urges Public to Volunteer ~

Nearly half the population (42%) have never volunteered, while nearly a quarter admit that volunteering has never even occurred to them, according to a recent British Heart Foundation (BHF) shops survey.¹

The BHF conducted the survey as part of a campaign taking place throughout August to encourage more people across the country to put their time, skills and talent to good use by volunteering at their local BHF shop.

The BHF has over 530 shops across the UK that rely on volunteers to keep them running. Last year BHF shops generated an income of over £9 million for the nation's heart charity to help fight heart disease- which remains the UK's biggest killer.

Other survey results showed that nearly **60%** of people questioned felt they did not have time to volunteer, while **15%** believe they would not have control over the hours they worked. In response to these results, the BHF is keen to highlight that volunteering at BHF shops is hugely flexible and just a few hours a week will make a huge difference to help heart patients across the UK. It's also a great way to give something back to the local community.

Ken Blair, Chief Executive for the BHF Shops says; "Most people know someone affected by heart disease and by joining a team of BHF Shop volunteers you can help us make a real difference. There really are a huge number of roles available, sure to suit a whole range of people, whatever time and skills you have to spare;"

¹ VOLUNTEERING ONLINE BUS SURVEY, 157827 WK29, 42% OF PEOPLE QUESTIONED HAVE NEVER VOLUNTEERED AND 24% SAY IT HAS NEVER OCCURRED TO THEM

Sales Floor Assistants – Could you spare a few hours to help on the shop floor by keeping our shelves full, assisting our customers and operating the till?

Sorters, Ticketers and Steamers – We need volunteers to help prepare our valuable donations before they are moved onto the shop floor.

Do you have a special Interest in Bric-a-brac, Books, Music or Accessories? – We need volunteers with your knowledge to help sort, price and fill our shelves with valuable donations for these specialist areas.

Can You Give Us a Hand? – We need volunteers to help move the valuable stock donations we receive from the general public.

Volunteer Collectors Needed- Do you have your own transport and a few hours to spare? We need volunteers to make collections of donated stock for this shop. Expenses will be met if required.

To locate your local BHF shop and find out more about volunteering opportunities, call **0844 412 5000** or visit **bhf.org.uk/shops**.

ENDS

For media enquiries, please call Amy Burns at the British Heart Foundation on 0207 487 9439 or 07764 290 381 (out of hours).

Notes to editors

BHF charity shops raise £9.6 million last financial year to help the BHF fight heart and circulatory disease – the nation's single biggest killer

BHF charity shops sell 60,000 items every day; have 15 million customers and 10,000 volunteers.

The BHF now has over 530 shops. Our aim is for everyone in the UK to have a local BHF charity shop.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is leading the battle against heart and circulatory disease – the UK's biggest killer. The Charity is a major funder and authority in cardiovascular research. It plays an important role in funding education, both of the public and of health professionals, and in providing life-saving cardiac equipment and support for rehabilitation and care.

For more information on BHF shops, please visit bhf.org.uk/shops