**Trainee Role Description – Community Learning - 2 posts**

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, Organiclea’s 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to through our own Box Scheme, plus some local shops and restaurants. In our ½ acre glasshouse we grow heritage tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, chillies and seedlings for sale to local people and community groups. In 2022 we produced over 10 tonnes of produce, including 2 tonnes of salad leaves, featuring 136 different varieties of leaf. To make this happen we work with hundreds of learners and volunteers each year.

A placement within the Community Learning and Inclusion (CLI) team means you will help us to put people and plants together to:

* Support more people to grow food through accredited training, work experience and volunteering.
* Support health and well-being through engagement in green space; encouraging an informed and reflective relationship with food.
* Build community and challenge marginalisation.

We have a passion for horticulture and for helping people learn and realise their potential in an outdoor work-based setting. This traineeship will suit someone looking to develop their skills as a community practitioner in urban food growing settings. The trainee will learn skills required to support learning and volunteering opportunities that encourage participants from all walks of life. The trainee will gain experience in supporting volunteers with additional needs (e.g. learning disability, ill mental health, language support), supporting the delivery of our varied training programme and practical gardening activities throughout the seasons.

# **Details of the role**

* Unpaid voluntary role
* Time commitment: 1 day per week for 9 months, Wednesdays or Fridays

We are asking for a one day per week commitment, but different days at Hawkwood have a different flavour, structure and learning objectives, so it is ***possible*** that the candidate's working day changes during the course of the traineeship so there is the opportunity to experience the range of activities we offer.

* Dates: Wednesday 11 / Friday 13 April – Friday 15 / Wednesday 20 December 2023
* Hours: Wednesdays / Fridays 9.00am - 5.00pm (with later finish one Wednesday evening a month for option of participating in the ‘production walk’)
* Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery
* Occasional weekend commitments: We ask that all trainees help out at one of our seasonal Open Sundays.

**Supported by:**

* monthly check-ins with an OrganicLea mentor
* quarterly discussion and learning workshop with peers and mentors
* general volunteer tutorials which happen over several months (Wednesday/ Friday) at the end of the working day
* travel expenses, within London, if needed
* bicycle repairs and servicing whilst-you-work for cyclists
* a seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided on Wednesdays and Fridays

**To apply please:**

1. Complete and return the OrganicLea application form and monitoring form, available on our website.
2. Indicate clearly which role(s) you are interested in. If you would like to apply for more than one role please list your preferred 3 in order.
3. Send to: debbie@organiclea.org.uk or post to the Hawkwood Address for the attention of Debbie Ladds, OrganicLea, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, E4 7UH.

**Deadline for applications: 9pm on Friday 17 February 2023**

**Interview date: Wednesday afternoon 15 March or Friday afternoon 17 March 2023**

For more information about the role, start by contacting Debbie at: debbie@organiclea.org.uk (Tuesdays and Fridays are good contact days).

**Main objectives**

* To learn about and provide support for the volunteer programme at Hawkwood
* To learn about and support our learning and training opportunities
* To assist with the delivery of our entry level activities, including our Buddy Scheme which provides achievement-based learning for volunteers with additional needs
* To provide support for the fruit and vegetable production at Hawkwood when required

**Main Activities**

**Delivering learning opportunities and supporting volunteers**

* Work with CLI to ensure all volunteers on site are safe, fully inducted, welcomed, valued and supported
* Support the delivery of learning opportunities including Level 1 horticulture courses, English by Accident courses in horticulture or cooking and our Health and Wellbeing courses
* Participate in the Buddy Scheme to support volunteers with additional support needs, particularly those experiencing mental ill health, physical difficulties, language barriers and adults with learning disabilities; and support others who choose to be a Buddy
* Lead tasks with volunteers

**Growing**

* Assist with all aspects of vegetable production (especially between 9am-11am before volunteers arrive) including: formulating propagation media, raising plants from seed, planting, harvesting, weeding and maintaining salad crops, vegetables, green manures and companion plants
* Undertake other activities in support of OrganicLea, as appropriate

**Person Specification**

**Essential**

* Commitment to learning for all; particularly non-classroom opportunities
* Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers
* Happy to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
* Some experience of growing
* Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
* Commitment to empower others through sustainable activities such as food growing, especially in diverse urban communities
* Understanding of issues surrounding social exclusion and marginalisation: patience and understanding, especially when working with groups who are very new to outdoor activity or learn in different ways
* Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion
* Commitment to and understanding of the aims of OrganicLea
* Recent enhanced DBS check, or willingness to be checked

**Desirable**

* Experience of working with volunteers
* Experience of working with specific needs including adults with learning disabilities and those experiencing or recovering from ill mental health
* Interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice
* Understanding of issues surrounding Safeguarding, Health and Safety
* Level 1 Horticulture qualification