Your pocket guide to collecting
Welcome to Team Marie Curie

Thank you so much for signing up to volunteer with us.

By collecting for Marie Curie and encouraging your community to donate, you’re helping Marie Curie Nurses care for more people living with a terminal illness. Whether you’ve never collected for Marie Curie before or are a seasoned volunteer, this leaflet is packed with top tips to help you along the way.

Remember: every penny dropped in a collection tin will help people receive better care at the end of their life.

Top tips for a successful collection

Volunteer together
Recruit a friend, family member or colleague, and volunteer together. You’ll be doubly visible, have double the fun and might raise double the funds too!

Be prepared
Anticipate the weather for rain or shine: bring layers, waterproofs and, if needed, a hat, gloves and warm socks. If rain or snow is forecast, see if there’s somewhere under cover you can stand. If hot weather is expected consider bringing sun-cream, a bottle of water, and a hat.

Pick the perfect position
Try to find a busy spot where people have cash ready, such as supermarket till points and outside cafés. Stand somewhere prominent – but not in people’s way. You can ask your community fundraiser or host beforehand on where it is best to stand.

Get noticed
You can never wear too much yellow! Make sure your tabard is clearly visible over your clothes so people know who you’re collecting for. Or you could consider fancy dress!
Be easy to approach
Smile and make eye contact – people are more likely to approach you if you look friendly and are having fun. Carry the collection permit in case anyone asks to see it. And make sure to put all donations straight into the collection tin, as putting money into a bag or pocket (even for safe-keeping) can cause concern.

Be safe
If you need the toilet, leave your tin with another volunteer or return it to the host. In the unlikely event that someone tries to steal your tin, put your safety first and give up the tin. In the unfortunate instance this does occur, please contact your Community Fundraiser - you’ll be able to find their number in your confirmation email. If you have provided us with your mobile number you will also receive a text on the morning of your collection providing you with your ‘on the day’ contact number. If your collection is during the week you can also contact our Supporter Relations team on 0800 716 146*(Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). In case of an emergency while you’re collecting, make sure you’ve completed the Event Volunteer Information Card with details of someone to contact and carry the card with you while you volunteer.

*Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.
Your call may be recorded for quality and training purposes.
Calls cost no more than 7p per minute plus your phone company’s access charge.

Remember why you’re volunteering
To put a spring back in your step during a quiet moment, remind yourself that the money you raise helps pay for a Marie Curie Nurse to look after someone living with a terminal illness in their own home – whether it’s 5p or £50!

All your questions answered
One of the most rewarding things about volunteering is getting the chance to meet the people in your community and talk about the work Marie Curie does. We’ve put together a list of answers to the most popular questions our volunteers are asked by the public, to help you spread the word.

What does Marie Curie do?
We’re here for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. Our nurses work night and day, caring for people in their homes and in our nine hospices. We also offer practical information and emotional support from trained volunteers.

How does each donation help?
Every £20 pays for an hour of care from a Marie Curie Nurse. We provide nurses free of charge to people living with a terminal illness.

How can I get support from a Marie Curie Nurse or Hospice?
Someone with a terminal illness, or a family member or friend, can request this through their GP, district nurse, hospital nurse or consultant.

How much care and support do you provide?
Last year, we helped more than 50,000 people living with a terminal illness, and their families*

How much should I donate?
Every penny counts. Please give anything you can.

*For more details, see Marie Curie Annual Report and Accounts 2017/2018
What is the difference between a Marie Curie Nurse and a Macmillan Nurse?
Marie Curie Nurses give practical, hands-on care to help people with any terminal illness. They will often spend a whole nine-hour shift, usually at night, with one patient and their family. Macmillan Nurses are community-based and offer free advice and support to people with cancer, usually for an hour at a time.

You'll find much more information and advice online at mariecurie.org.uk/collect

Collecting at Christmas

December is a very important time to collect for Marie Curie. With more people out doing their holiday shopping and enjoying the season, volunteering at Christmas can be brilliant fun. Follow our festive tips for a merry Christmas collection:

Wrap up warm! It can be chilly standing in one spot, so wear plenty of layers and waterproof shoes if it's going to snow.

Keep your head toasty and your ensemble festive with a Marie Curie Christmas hat.

Spread some seasonal cheer with a sing-along (lovely singing voice optional!)

“We love volunteering for Marie Curie. It helps fund amazing nurses and people are just so friendly!”

Sian and Sarah
Get snap happy

We love seeing you out volunteering! So don’t forget to share your pictures with us* on social media.

Or by emailing us at supporter.relations@mariecurie.org.uk

*By sending us your photos you agree to them being used on future promotional materials.
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