



Outcome: Learning & Skills

Volunteer case study: Roba – TCV Edinburgh

“These skills have helped me to become much more confident in myself. TCV’s Building Roots programme has provided me and other Syrian women with more opportunities not only to learn and socialise, but to empower ourselves as well.”

Through the work of The Conservation Volunteers, people improve their confidence, skills and prospects, through learning inspired by the outdoors.

Roba’s story is a brilliant example of how TCV’s projects can not only improve a volunteer’s skills to gain employment but also increase their confidence to support their wellbeing and experience great personal achievement.

Roba moved to Scotland with her husband and two sons from Syria in 2018. After volunteering at The Welcome in Edinburgh, she was introduced to TCV’s Building Roots project, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, aimed at connecting the Syrian community to their new home.

91% of our volunteers say they have learnt new skills

Source: TCV impact figures 2020





Roba developed skills that have allowed her to settle into life in Scotland, such as language and communication, as well as practical conservation and woodworking.

Being able to use the tools and drills was particularly empowering for the women of the group as they found themselves gaining the confidence to carry out tasks that were new to them.

The group experienced a multitude of benefits by learning these skills and using them to provide care and attention to their local green spaces and become more connected to their community.

"It's not only practical skills I have developed from volunteering with TCV, but I have also learned how to communicate with people from different nationalities, improved my language skills and learnt more about how to work in Scotland."

Through her experiences volunteering with TCV, Roba had the opportunity to get to know more about Edinburgh and see many new landscapes and environments in Scotland. She also gained employment with TCV.

Roba is now a Senior Project Officer at TCV Edinburgh. Volunteering provided Roba with the knowledge and skill-base needed to gain employment in the conservation sector and her colleagues are thrilled to have her as part of the team.





"I would never have done anything like this if it wasn't for the Building Roots programme. I like being outdoors now."



"I have become so much more confident and am able to rely on myself more. I understand now how to build a community and how to bring people together."

"We're so glad to be able to employ a previous volunteer as a Senior Project Officer on the Building Roots project. Roba is invaluable to the project in many ways – her community engagement, Arabic translations, and cultural insight."

"The pandemic has been a difficult time for all, impacting on our social and mental health. This project remains as important as ever and it's great that Roba has been able to deliver Covid-secure sessions through in-person activities like walking, wood working and gardening."

Amy Styles, TCV Team Leader

Find more ways how TCV enhances the learning and skills of volunteers and how you can support them by visiting our website.



www.tcv.org.uk

