

# Volunteer Centre Wiltshire

## Volunteer Case Study – Tim Barron



Tim volunteers with KeyRing Living Support Network as a Community Living Volunteer. KeyRing is a national charity that supports vulnerable adults to live independently in the community. They support Members to maintain their tenancies and achieve their goals in education, employment and volunteering. They also encourage mutual support and friendship between KeyRing Members to reduce social isolation.

Having worked in commerce for many years Tim had been out of the work place for 7 years and wanted to give something back to society as well as start to build up his CV and experience again. Tim knew of the Volunteer Centre and thought it would be a good place to start when he decided to see what voluntary roles were available. He liked the sound of the KeyRing role as, having experienced some difficulties in his own life, he wanted to work with vulnerable adults and people with mental health issues as he felt they quite often have a rough ride in life and he wanted to give some of his experience back to society. Tim feels that he has seen a different side of life and he feels this helps him identify and help the KeyRing members.

KeyRing helps people with many different needs to live independently so Tim takes on a wide variety of tasks to help their members. For example for some members he helps them deal with all the different agencies that provide the help they need to live at home, for others he will help them get, and keep, their finances in order or he may help someone get out and about and socialise with others. The most enjoyable aspect of the role for Tim is when he helps KeyRing members achieve something, such as getting care organised, reorganising someone's debt problems making them manageable or helping them resolve a problem or situation that they couldn't deal with alone. He likes fighting injustices on others behalf as he doesn't like to see people being taken advantage of. Tim says that seeing a smile on a member's face makes him feel good about both himself and the member.

Working with KeyRing has made Tim feel so much better about himself, when he started his confidence and self-esteem were at rock bottom but now he feels so much better about himself and his confidence levels have soared. Put simply Tim feels that in volunteering he takes back far more than he gives.

Tim is already making further changes in his life, later this month he is starting to train as a Volunteer Advocate with Swan Advocacy Network, another role he found through the Volunteer Centre and he is also hoping to become a volunteer mentor for the Volunteer Centre. His volunteer work is helping to rebuild his CV, he already has some new training certificates, and working with KeyRing has helped him decide that he wants to pursue a career working with people with mental health issues. Tim has said that without the Volunteer Centre he would not have come across KeyRing and found the role which he feels has made a real difference to his life, he would still be sitting at home doing nothing everyday but now he's active in his community and is planning a new career.