**Volunteers Quotes on Why They Volunteer**

“I first volunteered as it helped me feel like a normal person after my stroke at a time when I needed it the most. Now I volunteer for the community, to see people grow in confidence, pass my understanding on to others and breakdown stereotypes people may hold”.

“Bristol Harbour is a unique place. It is the heart of the city. I like encouraging people to get out on the water and enjoy it as much as I do”.

“The first guiding principle of being a volunteer at Al-Aboard is its passion and belief for creating inclusivity in a non-discriminating way. This facilitates a person-centred approach to every volunteer and maximises their potential to deliver customer satisfaction at all levels”.

“I haven’t got to where I am sailing wise, if it wasn’t for volunteers teaching me. Now I am retired, volunteering is a way to keep passing on skills to the up and coming youngsters of today”

“I initially volunteered to help my daughter get the most out of All-Aboard, but rapidly discovered the satisfaction in also helping other clients to exploit the breadth of opportunities offered by All-Aboard whilst being part of a great team who are real fun to work with!”

“I do it because of ‘The Team’. We have some of the best, loyal, skilful, dedicated volunteers who care about the clients”.

“My first experience of Al-Aboard was after signing up for the over 50+ rowing sessions. I soon knew this was a group of people and an organisation I wanted to stay involved with. Volunteering seemed a smart move. Seeing people of all ages and abilities participating in the Watersports on offer is amazing, for some of the clients this can be a challenging and uplifting experience. It is brilliant being part of their journey. All-Aboard provides opportunities and support to all its volunteers”.

“I love being able to be part of the activities on the water and helping others to learn the skills to fully enjoy it as I do. It is really nice being part of an inclusive and friendly staff team”.

“I first joined to help with the School Games because I liked the environment and the teamwork I had seen when I visited with my School. I stayed because there is something in helping people enjoy their time and teaching them the little I know, that hooks me in. Everything I have done so far has made me develop as an individual and as part of the team”.

“Watching all ages learn a new skill and enjoy it. Enjoying it yourself as well. Taking people on boat trips and showing them things they never knew about i.e history and wildlife.”

“I love the water and bring on it. It is great to be able to enable others to enjoy it too, especially people with disabilities.”

“Volunteering is different to work, we don’t need to be there, we want to be there! This means we wok great as a team with one common goal … having fun and ensuring we deliver fun to everyone we come across. Passing on my knowledge on and seeing the enjoyment from the students and other volunteers makes it all worthwhile.”

“I am no stranger to volunteering because I value the experience as much as being paid. With the right activity, it can double as being fun, engaging and rewarding as well. In my personal experience it has been a great way to get a foot in the door for even greater opportunities”.

“To see and promote people gaining new skills and confidence, or just giving them a fun time. AAW was a haven for me growing up, people went out their way to teach and support me and that’s something I ‘d like to continue.”

“I became a volunteer out of fear. I was having a drink in the Cottage one sunny afternoon when someone came up to me and said I should help out by driving people around the harbour. I kid you not. I wanted to tell him that my skill is sailing, but he had a certain look in his eye, so I did it and discovered that I was enjoying myself. Later he told me I could volunteer. Over the last ten years I have meet some great friends and had good fun. Highlights have included making boats with school kids, teaching young offenders how not to nick boats, helming the electric litter boat for the harbour master, and helping others to discover other interests. Low moments are anti fouling boats in the rain, baling in winter, and finding the doughnuts had run out at coffee time. Apart from that, wouldn’t have missed any of it”.