

Volunteer Stories

Simone Bray

Simone Bray first approached Coastline's Homeless Service in September 2019 after recently completing her Level 2 Hairdressing course at Cornwall College. Simone was then in the process of obtaining her Level 3 qualification and was looking for opportunities to utilise her new skills and gain experience. She felt a great way to do this while giving something back to the local community was to donate free haircuts to the clients of the Homeless Service. We felt this was an amazing offer and due to the flexibility of Coastline's Volunteer Scheme we were able to create a 'Hairdressing Volunteer' role based around Simone's skills. As a result Simone was able to start providing haircuts once per week at our Chi Winder Day Centre.

Simone explains: *"I approached the homeless centre as I wanted to combine offering the homeless haircuts while increasing my own confidence. What better way gain experience whilst studying! My smile has never been bigger."*

On average Simone provides 10 cuts per session, and her volunteer work is extremely valued by clients. Haircuts can have a tremendous effect on how someone looks, feels and acts but it is not always affordable or a priority for the homeless community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Simone's role unfortunately had to be put on hold. However this didn't stop her from finishing her Level 3 qualification at Cornwall College and completing additional training to ensure she would be COVID safe on her return. We are happy to say that Simone is now back cutting hair at Chi Winder Day Centre once again, and she has also started to provide haircuts to our Homeless Service Families Accommodation in Redruth. Providing free haircuts to the children that reside there has made a big difference especially during this time where people are feeling the financial strain a lot more.

"For the kids, it felt like a special treat to have someone come just for them, one of the boys had a star cut into his hair which he was over the moon about. For one parent in particular who's child has behavioural issues it meant she had the wonderful patience and determination of Simone, and the time to eventually successfully cut a fringe which wouldn't have been possible in a normal salon setting. It also saved the parent's time having haircuts done in the accommodation, money, and the hassle of trying to get haircuts through COVID restrictions which for both parents and children can be quite daunting." Leigh Fairweather, Families Support Worker

It's clear that Simone has made a big impact since starting as a volunteer, and when she doesn't have her volunteer hat on she is busy running her new hairdressing business 'Simone's Mobile Hair & Nails'. We wish her luck in her new business and thank her for still donating her time to the Homeless Service during this busy time.

