

Trustee Application - Information Pack

Message from David Westwood – Chair of the Toybox Board

I am delighted that you are interested in exploring more about Toybox. The Role Description and Person Profile will tell you a lot about the role of a Toybox Trustee with our website filling you in on the work that we currently do, but before all of that I wanted to give you an insight into being part of Toybox.

Toybox began over 30 years ago with a mission to end the injustice of children clinging to life on Guatemala City's streets. Today that mission is undiluted, we are still working with street children in Guatemala City although our remit has significantly grown and changed during these intervening years, and we now work across Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Toybox operates from a modern office in Bletchley, Milton Keynes where you can sense the commitment, professionalism, and dedication amongst all of the staff as soon as you walk in. The whole team undertake amazing work with great energy and enthusiasm to support children in street situations and the partners we work with. We try to give these children choices and opportunities in life, which would be impossible without the help of Toybox.

With a strong infrastructure and solid foundations in place, we are poised to expand and develop our work to help more street children, and this is a tremendously exciting and challenging time to join us, as we are just embarking on a new strategic period.

I am privileged to be joined on the Board by a committed, experienced and skilled team of Trustees (please see www.toybox.org.uk/about/trustees for more details). We have worked hard to ensure we operate within a clear understanding of the different roles Executive staff and Trustees hold. We look to ensure we provide appropriate support for the CEO and the Leadership Team whilst properly exercising our governance responsibilities. Why else might you want to be part of Toybox? Because you want to see a just world where no child is forced to live or work on the streets – then you are just the candidate for us.

I hope you find the information we have provided helpful. If you believe you can bring the necessary skills, knowledge and passion to this important cause we would love to hear from you. I would be very happy to speak with you personally and can be contacted by email: chair@toybox.org.

Please note that this role is voluntary but expenses are paid for travel.

Yours faithfully,

David Westwood
Toybox Chair

About Toybox

In 1991 the BBC aired a documentary about police officers shooting children living on the streets of Guatemala City. A British couple watching this were moved to action by their disbelief, faith, and desire to do something – thus Toybox was born. Our unusual name, Toybox, was chosen to capture the visual representation that every child deserves a childhood free from harm, in a loving, nurturing family.

Today our passion and commitment, fueled by our Christian faith remain undiluted, we are a compassionate and determined group of people based in Milton Keynes, who completely believe that one day there will be a world with no street children. Our motivation is that we believe we can do something, today, for the millions of children that are denied their basic human rights and are subject to appalling abuse, violence and discrimination.

Our vision and our mission

Our vision is of a just and fair world with no street children.

Our mission is to reach 30,000 children and young people in street situations through active, sustainable engagement with local partners; with a focus on legal identity, we will register 5,000 children by September 2026.

Our core values and team principles

At Toybox we have one core value, to be Courageous. Underpinning the core value our principles are:

- To put street children and young people first.
- To stand rooted against injustice.
- To be ambitious for positive change in the world.
- To innovate with curiosity.
- To work as one team and be kind.

Our organisational structure

Toybox Board

There is a board of eight trustees, and two of these trustees sit on the Finance and Audit Sub Committee which reports into the Board. The Board focuses on three key areas: corporate governance, strategic governance and impact governance while devolving the day-to-day operational duties to the CEO.

Leadership Team

Leadership Team comprising of the CEO, Director of Impact and Programmes, Director of Finance and Resources and a Director of Marketing and Fundraising.

Team Toybox

All staff are highly skilled and committed to the organisation's vision, values, and ethos.

Time commitment

The Board meet four times a year; normally meetings last three hours and take place in the afternoon. Three of the meetings are remote and one meeting a year in person (normally the December meeting).

How to apply

Expressions of interest are by summary CV together with a cover letter explaining what motivates you to apply and what you would bring to the role. You can either email your CV and cover letter to lynne.morris@toybox.org or post to Lynne Morris – Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6DP United Kingdom, marking the envelope “Private and Confidential”. All expressions of interest will be kept confidential.

Toybox is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment.

Toybox values diversity and therefore we encourage and welcome applications from suitably skilled candidates from all backgrounds.

We will only use the information you provide to process your application. For more information about how we use your information, see our Privacy Policy. In submitting an application for this role we will deem that you have read and understood this Policy.

Please note Toybox is member of the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme (the Inter-Agency Scheme for the Disclosure of Safeguarding-related Misconduct in the Recruitment Process), submitting your application to Toybox means you are granting permission for Toybox to request information regarding Safeguarding-related issues.