



*Monika began volunteering for the Cardinal Hume Centre's employment team in March 2016. Having retired from a long and successful career in business, she now helps several of our clients to prepare for the world of work. Here we learn about the role she thoroughly enjoys and the positive impact she has had on those around her.*

"I was aware when the Cardinal Hume Centre opened," enthuses Monika, who once met our charity's founder. "I promised myself that one day I would volunteer here, although many years passed before this became reality" she says. And so it was after a long and successful career in business,

Monika came to the Centre to discuss how she could contribute to our work.

With a business background and strong organisational skills, Monika decided to volunteer in our employment team, a role which she describes as "varied and greatly fulfilling." She enjoys a broad and interesting remit – including helping clients with their job searches, CV writing and mock interviews.

"Monika encapsulates professionalism," explains employment specialist Jeanita. "She is an inspiration both to our clients and our team. Her enthusiasm and endless energy, along with her empathy for our clients, shines through all that she does. As well as having a solid background in business, her wonderful sense of humour and pragmatic approach have turned many a difficult challenge into an accomplishment."

As part of her interesting role, Monika is currently coaching Centre client, Omar, as he looks to set up his own business. "Monika has been a wonderful support to me during the past year and a half as I endeavour to set myself up in business," says Omar. "She is always willing to go the extra mile and often contributes unexpected 'gems' to my projects. Thank you, Monika, for your endless contributions – from setting up a Kickstart account to attending meetings with the Arts Council and your meticulous research. Your skills and support are truly appreciated."

To find out more about volunteering at the Cardinal Hume Centre please go to <https://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk/help-us/volunteering/>