

VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2026

Giving Back. Our Stories.

Celebrating the incredible volunteers in our team

1st – 7th June 2026

This Volunteers Week, we're shining a light on the remarkable people in our team who give their time, energy, and heart to causes they care deeply about. From guiding young girls to refereeing powerlifting competitions - here are their stories.



VOLUNTEER STORY

Christine

GIRLGUIDING UK - RAINBOW & BROWNIE LEADER

Christine runs both a Rainbow and Brownies unit at her local Church Hall, dedicating an hour each week to 16 girls aged between 4 and 10. Girlguiding is a worldwide organisation that empowers girls and helps them develop the skills and confidence to become the young women they want to be.

Christine has been a volunteer since she was just 16, helping alongside her mum - and has been involved with Girlguiding Ulster from the age of 4, when she first joined the very same Rainbow unit she runs today. Over the years she's collected awards and badges, taken part in sleepovers and Ulster camps, and even been selected to volunteer at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.



VOLUNTEER STORY

Gavin

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION · MARATHON RUNNER

Gavin volunteers for his son's school as part of the Parents and Friends Association (PFA). He wanted to be as involved as possible in his children's growth, to see what contributes to it, and to give back to the school he attended as a child - a place that is still a large part of his local community.

Every year, Gavin also takes part in the Plotbox marathon, putting in hours of training and running at least 5 miles on the day, while encouraging others to donate to the cause.



VOLUNTEER STORY

Lauren

ANIMAL SHELTER OF SULLIVAN COUNTY

Since January of this year, Lauren has been giving her weekends to the Animal Shelter of Sullivan County. She exercises the dogs, gives them a break from the kennels, runs Play Groups using the Dogs Playing for Life method, and leads adoption events at local partner businesses.

Lauren is there every Sunday morning for what she lovingly calls "puppy church" - joined by a core group of dedicated volunteers - and some Saturdays for events. She recently met with the shelter's director to become even more involved, including social media outreach, branding, and recruiting foster families.



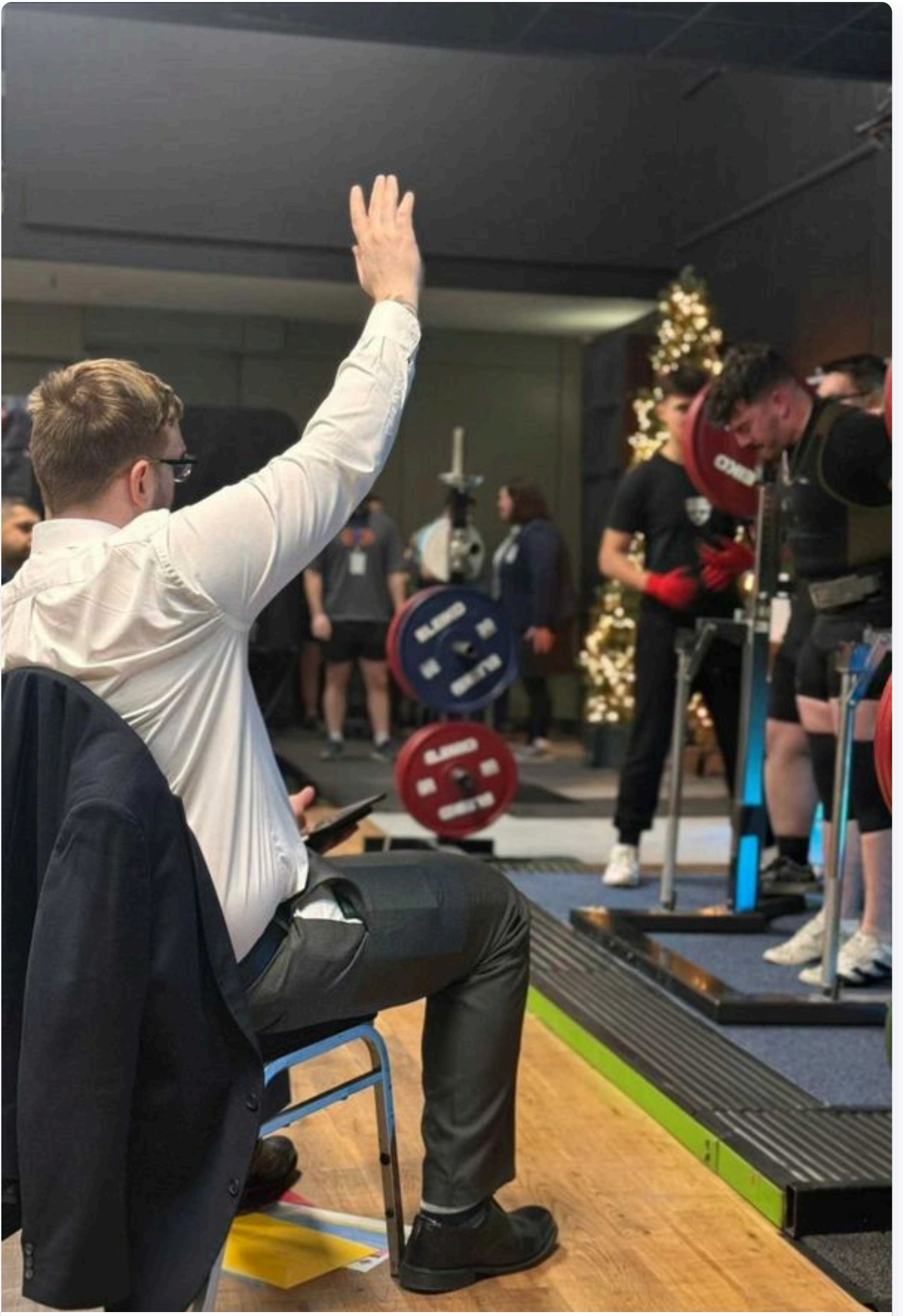
VOLUNTEER STORY

Ashlynn

SPRING LAKE CEMETERY · ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES

Ashlynn volunteers with multiple organisations, but is especially proud of her work with Spring Lake Cemetery in Aurora, Illinois, where she serves on the Board of Directors - setting strategic direction and overseeing fiscal responsibility. She personally led initiatives to introduce cemetery tourism as a new fundraising effort and spearheaded projects to formalise documentation and staffing structures.

Her passion extends to the Association for Gravestone Studies, where she previously served on the Board and headed multiple committees, and now co-leads their monthly deathcare book club. When she finds a little free time, she also supports local animal shelters and animal welfare efforts.

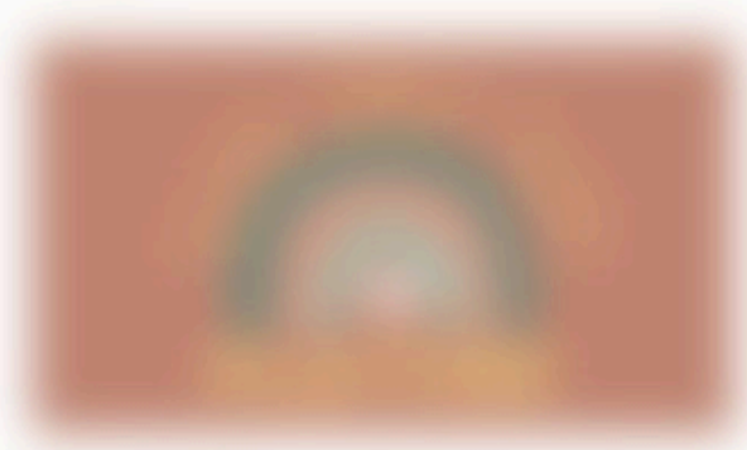


Mark

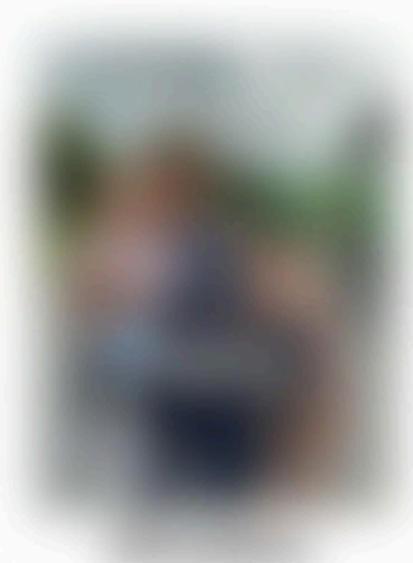
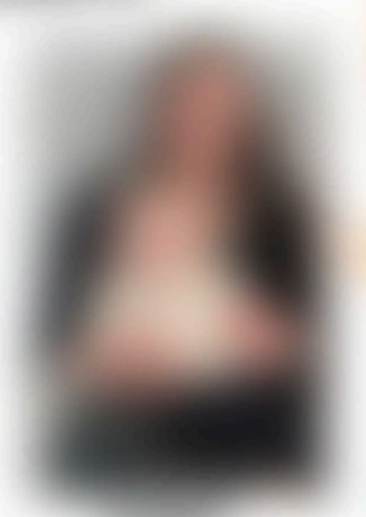
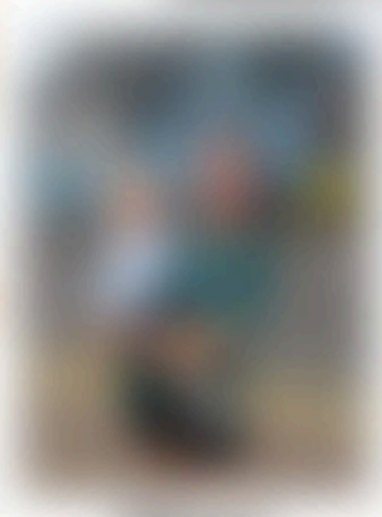
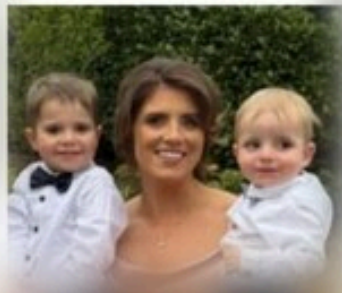
NORTHERN IRELAND POWERLIFTING FEDERATION - REFEREE

Since 2022, Mark has been a referee for the Northern Ireland Powerlifting Federation, volunteering a few times a year whenever competitions come around. His duties span kit checks on all competitors' gear, weighing in athletes, and officiating the lifts - judging squats, bench presses, and deadlifts against the technical rules of the sport.

It's completely voluntary and takes up most of a Saturday or Sunday, but Mark wouldn't have it any other way. The atmosphere at competitions is electric, he's met a huge number of great people, and has made some solid friends along the way.



Our Volunteers



VOLUNTEER STORY

Theresa

MUM & TOTS COMMUNITY GROUP

For around two years, Theresa has been volunteering at her local mum and tots group, organising weekly playtimes and special events for the community. That means setting up toys and games, making tea and toast, and ensuring Baby Shark and Sleeping Bunnies are played at full volume so everyone can dance out their energy.

She's also organised a few baby raves throughout the year. When Theresa first moved to the Glens, the group was so important in helping her meet people and feel at home - so giving back to keep it going was a choice she's never looked back on.

Celebrating **Volunteers Week 2026** - 1st to 7th June

Thank you to every volunteer in our team for the time, care, and heart you give.