

Warm Hearts Buddy Program

After experiencing how powerful it has been to pair two skipper volunteers per shift: to have fun and learn from each other, we decided to bring this model into all areas of Warm Hearts!

What is a buddy program?

Our buddy program pairs new volunteers with experienced ones based on your shared interests to offer guidance, social connection, and accountability. In January 2026, we begin our first six-month volunteering program for our newcomer volunteers who can apply for a small compensation. Buddy matching ensures that new volunteers feel welcome and have a safe point of contact while finding their place in the community. **We highly recommend each experienced and new volunteer become a buddy!**

How does it look like?

Duration: Ideally, each buddy relationship lasts 6 months*. A lot can happen in six months – many volunteers start with extra time and later move into work or new commitments. If you feel the calling to join the buddy program, we encourage you to apply — even if the next six months feel uncertain.

Compensation:

- Buddies can apply for a €100 monthly volunteer compensation
- Buddies receiving compensation commit to contributing at least half a day per week, which can be spread throughout the week depending on the tasks.
- Volunteers may also choose to pass on their compensation to someone who could benefit from it more. Buddies who choose not to receive compensation can participate flexibly, contributing as much as their schedule allows.

Expectations:

- Each buddy pair organizes one community evening inspired by their shared interests or culture.
- Buddy pairs take on volunteer tasks that match their shared interests, such as skippering, cooking, building, playing music, hosting events, creating social media content, supporting the podcast, or helping with the website.
- All buddies are expected to regularly check in with each other. The buddy system offers new volunteers a friendly contact who helps them find their way and feel at home in our community.
- Buddies attend meetings at Buurtwerkplaats Noorderhof in Amsterdam Nieuw-West, with many tasks also doable remotely.

How does this look like for an experienced volunteers?

- You can stay in your current role or explore a new one within Warm Hearts.
- You are not expected to be a mentor or expert — the buddy role is about equal guidance and having a safe person in the group!

What we offer:

- Volunteering in the most heart-warming group of people
- Meaningful opportunity to support your buddy feel welcomed in a new community
- Surround yourself with people ambitious about social impact
- Lots of appreciation from sauna good-doers and our community
- Grow your social and professional network in Amsterdam Nieuw-West
- Apply for volunteer compensation (vrijwilligersvergoeding) €100 per month for a duration of 6 months.
- Room to grow, learn, and shape your role – with a big bonus of having access to the best sauna in Amsterdam!

How to become a buddy?

- [Sign up here](#) and share a bit about yourself. If writing in English is challenging, you can also message Elsa (+31638205578) to arrange a conversation where we complete your form through a short interview.
- We will get back to you about your buddy matching in January after our Winter break is over on January 5th.

Our mission: We connect and empower people in Amsterdam of all backgrounds through volunteering, community, and kindness. Our volunteer-run sauna and activities around it create a safe space for learning and personal growth. We are a diverse, compassionate team including people with a refugee background and those who have faced hardship. We value equity, inclusion, and celebrating different cultures. If you're passionate about making a positive impact, we'd love to hear from you.

Non-Discrimination Statement: We are proud to be an equal opportunity organization. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability or social status - in our hiring, volunteering or services. We welcome all volunteers from individuals of all backgrounds, including those with lived experience of vulnerability and marginalization.