**Volunteer and Work Placement Management Policy**

All Lives Are Precious (hereafter referred to as "The Company") depends on Volunteers to carry out its work, both in the operation of the Board of Directors, and in the carrying out of day-to-day activities. Irrespective of how a volunteer chooses to engage with The Company, it is essential that he/she is consistently treated with respect and fairness, and in a friendly and supportive environment. This Volunteer and Work Placement Management Policy sets out the principles by which volunteering activity in The Company will be managed.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteering opportunities exist with respect to:

* Participation in the Board of Directors as a board member
* Providing administrative and I.T. support to The Company
* Assisting with the running of public events
* Assisting with the maintenance and care of Company facilities
* Assisting with the maintenance and care of the community’s external spaces and facilities
* Assisting with the delivery of services to beneficiaries
* Participating in fundraising and funding activities
* Participating in activity specific projects

Volunteers are not employees and no volunteer are paid for the time and effort that they contribute to The Company.

**Volunteer Recruitment**

The Board welcomes volunteer participation from across the community. In addition, The Company welcomes the participation of Volunteers drawn from the TÚS Programme and Rural Social Scheme managed by the local Partnership Company.

**Working Conditions**

The Company is committed to ensuring that all Volunteers operate in a safe working environment. Volunteers are expected to participate fully in any training provided, to assist them in carrying out work activities assigned to them. When working on behalf of The Company, Volunteers are expected to take all necessary steps to ensure their own safety and that of members of the public with whom they engage.

**Training and Development**

The Company is committed to providing Volunteers with an opportunity to learn and grow through their engagement with the group. Learning opportunities may arise from participating in tasks or activities that are new to a volunteer or through taking on Board or project management responsibilities. Each volunteer will receive an appropriate level of induction training (in keeping with his/her volunteering role). Volunteers joining The Company, because of participating in a work placement scheme, will also be facilitated in engaging in whatever training is deemed appropriate by the scheme supervisor.

**Support and Guidance**

The Board of Directors will develop and agree on an annual work plan, which will determine the volunteering activities to be carried out by The Company. Volunteers will be made aware of how their specific role helps implement the work plan. As work-related questions may arise throughout the year, The Company will designate a Board (or sub-committee) member to liaise with Volunteers and oversee their work as appropriate. In this way, practical work-related issues that may arise can be dealt with in a timely fashion. In the case of Volunteers who are assigned to The Company as part of a work placement scheme, the designated Board or committee member will also liaise with the scheme supervisor in the Partnership Company as appropriate.

**Recognition of Volunteers**

The Board of Directors is committed to recognising the invaluable contribution that Volunteers make to both The Company and the community it serves. To this end, Volunteers will be thanked for their efforts privately and publicly when opportunities arise, and Volunteers will be encouraged to attend celebrations and events organised by The Company. Whenever possible, the Board will include a wide range of Volunteers in its publicity efforts and external communications efforts.

**Expenses**

Out-of-pocket expenses may be reimbursed to Volunteers, subject to the agreement of the Board of Directors and within the terms agreed in advance by the Board. Original receipts must be submitted to the Board within one month of being accrued for costs being reimbursed.

**Insurance**

The Board of Directors will ensure that appropriate insurance cover is in place to cover all Volunteers. The Company does not provide motor insurance or breakdown assistance for Volunteers using their personal motor vehicles.

**Managing Difficulties**

The Board of Directors recognises that difficulties may arise between Volunteers and The Company from time to time. Whenever possible, any such difficulties will be dealt with informally and in a timely fashion.

***Disciplinary Matters***

Should the behaviour or activities of a volunteer pose difficulties to the operations or reputation of The Company, then an appropriate disciplinary procedure will be followed by the Board of Directors. The disciplinary procedure will provide Volunteers with an opportunity to explain their case fully and fairly. Where the Board has reason to complain about the behaviour or activities of a volunteer assigned to The Company through a work placement scheme, the designated Board or committee liaison will immediately contact the scheme supervisor to discuss the matter. The scheme supervisor will then determine the appropriate course of action to be followed in each individual case.

***Grievance Matters***

Should the behaviour or work demand of Board members pose difficulties for a volunteer, then an appropriate grievance procedure will be followed by the Board of Directors. The grievance procedure will provide Volunteers with a fair and supportive opportunity to state their issue(s) so that they can be resolved in an amicable fashion. Where a volunteer has been assigned to The Company through a work placement scheme, the volunteer will be encouraged to contact their scheme supervisor. The scheme supervisor will then contact the designated Board or committee liaison to agree the appropriate course of action to take in the case.

**Confidentiality**

During their activities on behalf of The Company, Volunteers may have access to information that is not intended for dissemination publicly. Volunteers are required to keep this information confidential. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, to determine the appropriate time at which confidential information will be released to the public, subject to adherence to any relevant legislative requirements.