

BULLETIN

...for volunteers



Autumn 2005

Year of the Volunteer Photographic Competition

Capture the essence of volunteering in a picture and enter our competition!

In this special "Year of the Volunteer" we are inviting all volunteers to capture their experiences on camera to offer a visual representation of the fun, positive and interesting elements of volunteering. The theme is "Volunteers Caught on Camera"

The competition runs until October 31st 2005 and there are lots of goodies to be won! Contact us at Volunteer Centre Tameside for an application pack or download from our website. Please note, we are unable to return photographs to you.

Video Production

News Flash!!!

We will be producing a video to promote the value and benefits of volunteering in the next couple of months, if you're interested in participating please contact Vashti ASAP to get involved.

Volunteer Award Scheme

Volunteer Centre Tameside will administer the Volunteer Award Scheme, which recognises the commitment and achievements of volunteers. The award scheme will:

- Recognise the hard work and achievements of volunteers
- Promote the work of volunteers in the organisation as a whole
- Give volunteers a feeling of worth and pride in their work
- Provide a focal point for a "Volunteer Award Ceremony" or "Thank You Party"

Certificates are signed by the Mayor of Tameside and are awarded to highlight either 100, 200 or 500 hours of volunteering.

The "Outstanding Achievement Award" recognises those volunteers who have donated over 1,000 voluntary hours.

For your award pack contact Sue

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95/97 Penny Meadow
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 6EP

Telephone: 0161 339 2345

Email: office@tamesidevb.org.uk

Website: www.tamesidevb.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Tameside is a registered charity, number 514804, supported by Tameside MBC. This newsletter can be provided in large print, braille or on tape if required. Please contact Sue Vickers on 0161 339 2345 for more information. Building Bridges is a project funded by The Home Office Active Community Unit

Volunteer Centre Tameside



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communities

LOTTERY FUNDED

Legal status of volunteers to be clarified

Government ministers are currently looking at ways to clarify the legal status of volunteers in response to a series of court cases taken out by volunteers over unfair dismissal

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The voluntary and community sector organisations who have been challenged are heavily reliant on the input of volunteers and include RNLI, the Scouts

Association and the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Cases to date have shown confusion over the difference between employees' and volunteers' rights in terms of health and safety, equal opportunities legislation and the working time directive.

Although cases are still relatively few, there is fear amongst government and the VCS of the long-term impacts they may have on volunteering in England. For instance, volunteering organisations may be forced to close due to financial reasons having had to bear the cost of legal fees for their defence. Alternatively, they may no longer wish to use volunteers to avoid these type of tribunals.

A ministerial meeting was held at the beginning of last month, chaired by Fiona Mactaggart and attended by representatives from VCS organisations, the Government and the legal and insurance professions. Its aim was for issues experienced to be raised and potential solutions to be discussed.

One solution proposed called for the strengthening of guidance for volunteering organisations over managing volunteers and preventing feelings of mistreatment amongst volunteers. Another suggestion was the introduction of a volunteer law that clarifies the legal rights of volunteers and volunteering organisations. Volunteering codes of practice is another recommendation under discussion.

CSV Make A Difference Day

29th October 2005

Who can volunteer?

You can. Everyone from age 2 to 105 can volunteer on the day to make a visible difference to their community.

It's about time

You don't donate money, you donate time: rather than fundraising and sponsored events, *CSV Make a Difference Day* is about getting out there and actively making a difference through volunteering.

By **getting involved**, you can meet new people, make new friends, learn new skills, make sustainable improvements to the lives and issues you care about and feel great!

Organisations can take part as well – companies, charities, statutory sector bodies, schools and youth groups, hospitals and local community organisations.

- It's a fantastic way to attract new volunteers
- To win publicity for their organisation
- To build new partnerships in their community
- To use the day to kick-start a new project

Now in its 10th year, *CSV Make a Difference Day* is run by CSV and supported by Barclays PLC.

Contact the Volunteer Centre Tameside or see www.csv.org.uk for more information.

Voluntary Opportunity

Victim Support Tameside, a charity supporting Victims of Crime is looking for Community Volunteers who are able to give up one day a week of their time (flexible due to nature of the work).

Role

To help victims of crime and their families to come to terms with emotional and practical problems following a crime by providing a confidential service through support and information.

You will need to:

- Have good communication skills, in particular listening skills
- Be open minded and non-judgemental
- Have the ability to exercise confidentiality
- Be able to work within the boundaries of the organisation's policies and procedures
- Promote equality and value diversity in all aspects of the work
- Complete basic admin tasks
- Possess interpersonal skills
- Have the ability to get on with people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds

Rewards

You will receive comprehensive training, receive regular supervision and have the opportunity to meet up with other volunteers and attend workshops and seminars. You will develop new and existing skills to use in everyday life. You will have the satisfaction of supporting your community. Expenses will be paid for travel and telephone calls.

If you are ready for a challenge and have time to spare, please contact Dave for further details – telephone 0161 339 1190.

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Tameside Volunteer Celebration Evening 2005

Congratulations to all nominees and winners who attended the recent Volunteer Celebration Evening at Dukinfield Town Hall.

The evening was a great success with many young people, teachers and children attending. The evening kicked off with a rendition of *Thriller* by *Linden Road Primary School*, followed by a speech by International Netballer and Tameside Sports Development Coach, Karen Greig.

The awards followed with a short Junior Play Leaders display by *Manor Green Primary School*. Accompanying this display was a fantastic dance routine (*Denton West End* dance team) choreographed by Junior Sports Leaders from *Egerton Park Arts College*.

The evening ended with a congratulatory word from the Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Jacqueline Lane, followed by a free raffle, with prizes donated by local organisations.

Mark Tweedie, Partnership Development Manager, hosted the evening and conveyed the important message that sports volunteering is valued by many, whether it be in a school, club or in a community setting, and can create great leaders.

Winners in full:

Junior Play Leaders of the Year:

April Iles, St. Mary's RC Primary School,

Denton

Kieran Coy, St. John Fisher RC Primary School, Denton

Junior Sports Leaders of the Year:

Sarah Shandley, Astley Sports College

Tom Hill, Egerton Park Arts College

Community Sports Leaders of the Year:

Nathan Jackson, Stamford High School

Jade Johnson, Hyde Clarendon 6th Form College

Leader Mentor of the Year:

Christine Lomas, Manor Green Primary School

Primary Leadership Scheme of the Year:

Lyndhurst Primary School, Dukinfield

Secondary Leadership Scheme of the Year:

Two Trees Sports College, Denton

Thanks to: Linden Road Primary, Manor Green Primary, Egerton Park Arts College, Denton West End Dance Team, Karen Greig, Adam Battersby, Mark Tweedie, Jill Mayers, John Knighton, all of the school sports co-ordinators, everyone who took the time to nominate, the volunteers, and the Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Jacqueline Lane and her Consort, Dawson Lane.

Theatre Royal Onward, Hyde

Theatre Royal Onward has existed for five years with the objective of restoring and re-opening the Theatre Royal Hyde, for its original purpose of large scale professional theatre, amateur theatre where a larger venue is required and other uses in the community.

Although the theatre has just changed ownership and is currently not on the market we are still able to continue with our aims and to raise funds we are a Building Preservation Trust, committed to preserving the building's historical and architectural worth (of which it has plenty).

At the moment we are conducting a Market Research Survey to ask the people of the area why they would like the Theatre Royal restored and the uses they would support. Theatre and its availability locally comes first.

Here are a few areas you might like to help us with:

The Survey

Could you take some of our questionnaires and collect the viewpoints of your own neighbourhood, friends or work colleagues?

Publicity

Could you help us by keeping in touch with all areas of publicity: all the magazines and publications who may be interested in our aims and also TV and Radio.

Fundraising

Our next large event is our very popular Race Night at the Barn House, Bredbury. Could you sell Horses, Trainers and Jockeys in advance or ask a local business to take advantage of gaining some publicity through sponsoring a race. Have you ideas for fundraising which you can follow through?

Membership

Could you help us to outreach new members or Friends of the Theatre (a mere £2 p.a.). Membership gets you a vote at the AGM and regular news. Friendship places you on our mailing list for the latest news. It is essential we have a decent number of both these, in order to receive any funding.

You may also wish to use or turn some aspect of the work into a project for college. As an example a photographer has been to the theatre to add to his collection for a BA Degree. Another, now one of our Trustees, did recorded interviews of people's views and memories as a part of his Media Degree and is now preparing an audio book.

Please look to our website - www.theatreroyalhyde.org.uk for further details. It's the best way to keep up with us at the moment. If you are not online you might like to use the Library service. The libraries also have details of our Aims and contacts.

If you would like to know more you can reach our secretaries (we have two) on 07885 503 120 or 0161 368 4938

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Get Into Sport

After the announcement that the Olympics are coming to London in 2012, August will be a time to recruit, retain and recognise sports volunteers throughout the country. To find out some of the events going on in sport in the Year of the Volunteer, go to www.sportmonth.org

Helping volunteering in sport - Volunteering England and Sport England

Volunteering infrastructure has been given the extra boost of having a national sports post part-funded by Sport England. Volunteering England manages Laura Ferguson (the Strategic Development Manager - Volunteering in Sport), who works closely with Lisa Wainwright (the Senior Development Manager - Volunteers), at Sport England. Laura and Lisa are working to create links between volunteering and local and regional sports organisations.

Volunteering and the Olympics

The whole country will benefit from the world's biggest sporting event being staged in London. The aim is to recruit 25,000 volunteers by 2008 and the full compliment of 70,000 by early 2012. Volunteers will be fulfilling a vast array of tasks, from spectator services to translation facilities to first aid care. They will be encouraged to carry on doing

volunteering work after the Games, to use the skills they have learnt and to get employment or pursue education opportunities. People interested in volunteering at the Olympic Games should register online at www.volunteer2012.com

What next?

Keep an eye on www.volunteering.org.uk for further news about the Volunteering in Sport Partnership.

Ashton Mencap

After being in existence for almost fifty years, your local Mencap society is in danger of folding.

Despite several attempts to attract new members for some time, we have been unsuccessful. In fact, some of our present committee were among the original members at that first meeting!

If we are to continue, we urgently need new members for our committee, especially people who would be prepared to hold office as Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer.

Do you see yourself as the person we need? Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at the Volunteer Centre Tameside, Penny Meadow, Ashton-under-Lyne at 7.30pm.

Contact tel. 0161 330 5301 Hon Sec.