

vinvolved

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Wigan & Leigh

Monthly News

November
2009

vinvolved's Youth Action Team has decided it is high time we had a snazzy newsletter to keep you all informed about what is going on with volunteering and young people in this borough.

So here it is...your new monthly newsletter packed with the latest news, information about volunteering opportunities and articles!

If anyone would like to contribute to the newsletter then just get in touch!

Happy reading...

Latest News

The vinvolved team and their colleagues at Wigan & Leigh CVS spent two busy days at the end of October celebrating **Make a Difference Day 2009**. MADD is the national day dedicated to raising awareness of volunteering in the UK.

We handed out over **200 Random Acts of Kindness Cards** aimed at encouraging people to carry out one small act of kindness, in the hope that they would enjoy it, help spread 'a wave of kindness' across the borough and may think about doing so on a regular basis via volunteering.

What's involved this month?

Latest News
Pg 1

V Opportunities
Pg 3

Have Your Say
Pg 4

Your YAT
Pg 4

Good News Story
Pg 5

Contact Us
Pg 6

Latest News Continued

For the more ambitious, we also had instructions on how to build a home for a hedgehog, how to make a friendship bracelet and how to knit an i-pod cover.

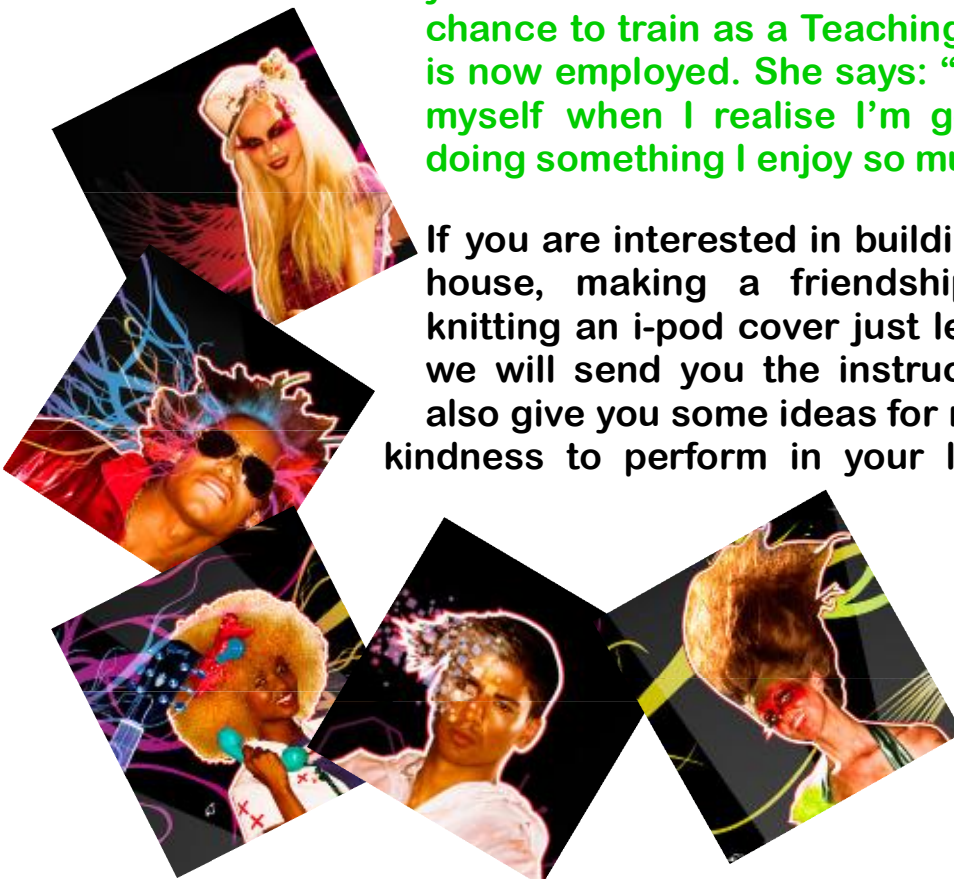
During the two days we were amazed at the number of people we met who are already volunteering, many of whom don't even realise the great work they are doing. Here are just some of the stories...

We met a lady who has volunteered for the Homeless Unit for 4 years taking a number of homeless lodgers into her own home.

A lady ran a snooker club - she didn't think she'd been a volunteer but she had supported the local police to set up sessions for young offenders to socialise and play snooker. She made friends, changed her opinions about offenders and offered a different life perspective to the young people.

A lady we spoke to helped out at her daughter's school for 4 years as a volunteer. She then got the chance to train as a Teaching Assistant and is now employed. She says: "I have to pinch myself when I realise I'm getting paid for doing something I enjoy so much."

If you are interested in building a hedgehog house, making a friendship bracelet or knitting an i-pod cover just let us know and we will send you the instructions! We can also give you some ideas for random acts of kindness to perform in your local area and they're all cost-free!



V Opportunities

Plan events, days out, and activities with British Lung Foundation Leigh. Also help with their newsletter and website! **Breathe Easy** meets at least once a month on a Monday evening.

Physical Activity Leader! Lead exercises to pre-school children and parents on a Monday afternoon in Pemberton. With the right commitment you could gain an **NVQ level 3** in Health and Social Care-Children and Young People.

Experienced in **rugby**? Coach an under 15's team! New Spring Lions want volunteers to aid in the development of local rugby league players. You could receive a **coaching badge and a first aid certificate**.

11-19? Want a say in local services that affect you? 'The Pledge' Champion in Hindley want someone who will help **inspect organisations** who provide services for children and young people. You will **advise** on how to improve their services. Training given with the opportunity to receive an **AQA accreditation** in Speaking and Listening Skills.

Do you have **artistic skills**? A Lowton primary school is looking for volunteers to help and assist children with designing and painting a blank corridor as a timeline with images from history.

Are you interested in volunteering with children and young people? Want to get yourself on a **free** training course? By taking part in this January course you can volunteer with children of all ages, backgrounds and needs.

TO GET INVOLVED WITH THESE OPPORTUNITIES AND FIND OUT MORE GET IN TOUCH WITH US TODAY! Also search www.vinspired.com for volunteering near you!

Have Your Say...

“I help organise children’s discos and parties for Halloween, Christmas and summer time etc. at **St Williams Club**. It’s hard work keeping up with the kids at the discos – but we enjoy it as much as they do!”- Volunteer we met during the MADD activities

“I get a buzz out of doing my volunteering...I didn’t want to just sign on and lay about the house, I wanted to do something for myself and the community...I would advise other young people to do it as they’d get a kick out of it”- 18 year-old volunteer Matthew Hendry who dedicated over 200 hours to the **Wigan and Leigh Hospice Charity Shop in Ashton**

Your YAT



Hi, I'm Daniel Baldwin, and I'm a vinvolved volunteer. I volunteer with YAT, which is the Youth Action Team, and we organise new volunteering opportunities for young volunteers in the Wigan and Leigh Borough. I started volunteering because I had a lot of free time on my hands, thanks to dropping out of college (by the way, that's a bad move guys).

However, thanks to working with YAT, it's given me much more confidence in myself as a person and in my actions.

Whilst I've been on the YAT, I've been on a residential in the Lake District which was great fun and brought us all together as a team. I've also taken part in an art project at Broadmead Day Centre for adults with learning disabilities. I have also helped to organise the Young People are Superheroes event that was hosted at the DW stadium, and I've helped out at a Volunteers' Day in Mesnes Park!

Myself? I like climbing and outdoor activities like walking and kayaking, and I also have a passion for computer gaming and web and game design. I also enjoy going out with my friends and doing parkour.

I think that volunteering is one of the best things that a person can do and I also think that more people should volunteer; it's not as scary as you might think!

If you're interested in joining the Youth Action Team get in touch!

Good News Story

The Young People are Superheroes event was held in August 2009. The Volunteer of the Year category was sponsored by the involved team, to recognise young people that have given their time and shown dedication to a volunteering project.

The winner of this award was Markus Schickhoff, 19, from Wigan. The award was presented by Pamela Ball from Wigan and Leigh CVS at the fun event at DW Stadium.

Markus organised his own 27 mile sponsored bike ride to raise funds and then spent 10 weeks in Madagascar dedicating 100's of hours to volunteering and helping people. This involved building a school in a small village and planting 1000's of trees as part of the sustainable livelihoods development project. He also helped to teach English to local students.

On returning to England, Markus then volunteered his time at the Bricklayers homeless shelter and is also looking to volunteer at Wigan and Leigh Hospice. The sheer lengths this young person has gone to, to help others is staggering.



Interested in volunteering overseas?

Then why not apply through Platform2???

If you are aged between **18-25** you could be volunteering in India, Nepal, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa or Peru and making a real difference to the lives of those less fortunate. This is a **fully-funded 10 week programme** so the cost to you will be almost nothing...just your time and energy!

Go to www.myplatform2.com or contact us



Want to get involved?

If you are interested in getting involved in volunteering, want to have your say or wish to get let us know what you think about the newsletter, then contact Francesca and Catherine from the involved team (details below).

All ideas and opinions are welcome.

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