

Registered Charity No. 1001907

Hi, Happy New Year and welcome to our news letter updating you on our activities during the last months of 2009 and what is coming up in the next few months.

Support for volunteering at AGM



Photo: Leader of the Council Keith Moffitt, Mayor of Camden Omar Faruque Ansari, Baroness Julia Neuberger (front row left to right) and VCC staff and volunteers

This year's AGM was held on 3rd November at Camden Town Hall. We were joined by Mayor of Camden Omar Faruque Ansari, leader of the Council Keith Moffitt,

Baroness Julia Neuberger (formerly the government's champion for volunteering), about 60 member organisations plus volunteers, trustees and

staff of Volunteer Centre Camden. The event was a celebration of both Camden's volunteering strategy launched earlier in the year, and another successful year for VCC in raising the profile of volunteering in the borough.

Free Training

Involving volunteers with mental health needs

The course covers aspects of good practice in volunteer management by considering the supervision and training of volunteers with mental health needs.

Next session 2nd March, 2-5pm

The session covers recruitment & retention, making the workplace a welcoming and supportive environment that offers volunteers a positive and fulfilling experience.

More training dates coming soon.

Check the website for bookings and more details

Camden's Youngest and Oldest Volunteers

The Mayor of Camden wishes to identify the borough's youngest and oldest volunteers and to invite them along with other guests to the Mayor's parlour for tea! If you think that you know who the oldest or the youngest volunteer may be, please contact

Caroline.Bartram@camden.gov.uk to let her know the name of the volunteer, what they do and their date of birth. Deadline 31st January 2010.

Did you know?

Volunteer Centre Camden is currently promoting 428 volunteering opportunities?

Promoting volunteering

In the last 3 months, we have attended events to promote volunteering in Camden. We have discussed volunteering in general and promoted specific opportunities registered with us:

- The Highgate Centre. A pre volunteering session for clients with mental health issues, another event is planned for January.
- Camden Family Fun Day. We talked to parents and young people about volunteering, and conducted a survey among parents about volunteering. Two significant findings from the survey were i) many parents would like to volunteer but are prevented from doing so due to childcare issues. ii) some respondents felt that they would like to volunteer as a family. VCC will be applying for funding to try and develop this area of work.

- Swiss Cottage Black History Month Event
- Talk to young people about volunteering at New Horizon Youth Centre Opportunities Fair
- UCL Freshers' Fair.
- Positively Aware in Camden, an event targeting people who are HIV positive. Sheila (VCC's Brokerage Service Manager) was part of the panel discussing involvement of the client group as volunteers. Sheila said *'The day was really productive and we had a lot of interest in volunteering from people attending the event. The emphasis of the day was on how the drugs available are so effective that many people with HIV and Aids are now able to lead full lives. Many people who were diagnosed years ago left their employment because they didn't think they had a future. Now they are long-term unemployed and the*

idea is to get them involved in the community, build confidence and skills through volunteering.' VCC will be working with partners to deliver some training for volunteer coordinators following this event.

- Integrated early years team. This was an event for parents of young children who are looking to get back into paid employment. Volunteering was one of the themes of the day and VCC delivered a presentation to the parents highlighting how volunteering could help them achieve their goal!

Outreach for the next month will include talking to staff at the Wellcome Trust, attending the Single Homelessness Project, having a stall at the Co-operative Supermarket in Kentish Town, and attending some joint events with Volunteer Centre Islington.

Plans for early 2010 & getting involved!

2010 is already shaping up to be a busy year for Volunteer Centre Camden. We will be organising a series of events in the next 3 months to promote volunteering. One event will be at Somers Town Community Centre to promote volunteering to people in the Somers Town and Kings Cross areas. Other events will target residents in social housing.

There will be an event on 17th February in Kentish

Town open to anyone who would like to find out more about volunteering. Organisations wanting to promote their opportunities should get in touch.

We have successfully secured funding for a best practice worker (Jack Wratten) to work with groups who have no paid staff to assist and support them with involvement of volunteers.

We will be delivering some free training and workshops on how to work

with volunteers. Please keep an eye on our website for the dates and topics.

We will also be trying to get more men to volunteer in 2010! Several organisations have contacted us to say that they need to recruit more men. New publicity materials are being developed to target men. If you work with men we could speak to about volunteering, please phone to arrange for us to come and meet them!

Are you recruiting volunteers? Do you want to register an opportunity with us so we can promote it for you?

For more information contact our membership team members@volunteercentrecamden.org.uk to book a one-to-one appointment.

New project to support organisations with no paid staff involve volunteers. Contact jack@volunteercentrecamden.org.uk



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