



Registered Charity No. 1001907

Hi, and welcome to our July news letter, letting you know what we have been up to during April, May and June, and some information about upcoming events.

Did you know?

Volunteer Centre Camden is currently promoting 349 volunteering opportunities?

Camden Volunteer Coordinators' Forum

Thursday 16th September 2010

Workshop Topic:

**2 – 3.30pm
Motivating & Retaining
Your Volunteers**

Co-ordinators' Forum:

3.30 to 5pm

Volunteers Week 2010

1-7th June was Volunteers Week. Volunteer Centre Camden was involved in promoting volunteering, especially environmental projects at the Camden Green Fair. We spoke to 121 people about volunteering in Camden. Volunteer

Centre Camden had a stall at the Pirate Castle's open day too. We also worked with Camden Council to promote trustee opportunities to their staff with three different information points; one in the Town Hall, one in the Staff Canteen and one at St Pancras Library.

Camden Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum

Thursday 16th September
2pm – 3.30pm Workshop
3.30pm – 5pm Forum

The Workshop before the forum will look at Motivating and Retaining your Volunteers, and then in the open Forum we can discuss *any* issues.

Recruiting Volunteers in Somers Town

On 16th June, Volunteer Centre Camden ran an information event for people interested in volunteering in Somers Town and King's Cross. The event was a great success, with 65 people coming to find out more about volunteering. One participant said:

'I will certainly be getting involved

with at least one, if not more, of the projects as a result of this event. It made it very easy to see what opportunities are out there. Great event. Really good work you are doing. The people welcoming you were so helpful and friendly that it made it really easy, even though I came on my own'

Ten organisations who were recruiting volunteers in the local area attended. The feedback was encouraging; "It was an incredibly productive and worthwhile day that scored me some volunteers."

There was also a guided walk which visited 10 organisations who were recruiting volunteers, to let people know about the variety of roles available.

info@volunteercentrecamden.org.uk

020 7424 9990
293-299 Kentish Town Road



Who's who at Volunteer Centre Camden?

There are 2 full-time, and 5 part-time paid staff at VCC and about 40 volunteers. Our volunteers provide reception cover, answering the phone and responding to emails. Volunteers help with bookkeeping, updating our website and working with member organisations to ensure that the details of their volunteering opportunities are up to date.

Anyone contacting VCC to find out about volunteering will be provided with information by a volunteer. This will be one of our brokerage volunteers, who help people to find volunteering roles in our weekly open sessions, at outreach events or by attending one of the talks and presentations we are doing.

People accessing our mental health service (**Hands on!**) will also be supported to find volunteering opportunities by a volunteer.

Our volunteers have been dealing with record numbers of clients in the past year. In June alone they dealt with 540 people registering with our services (in person and on line).

We also involve volunteers to help provide IT training to our new recruits, to conduct surveys with members and users of our services, to proof read volunteering opportunities, to do outreach work, to coordinate events, fundraising, research and as personal assistants.

The volunteers are

supported by the Administrator (Marianne), Brokerage Service Manager (Sheila), Capacity Building Manager for small groups (Jack), Hands on! & Befriending Manager (Diana) and Director (Hayley). We also have 2 staff from the *Future Jobs Fund*, Rhys who is working on promoting volunteering, and Umar who is working on updating the database.

In addition, the Centre is supported by 2 London Borough of Camden staff seconded to VCC part time. The first is Belinda Randell who works on workforce development, including volunteers, in physical activity, and Frances Connelly whose role is to implement the volunteering strategy for Camden.

Looking for volunteers?

VCC registered 540 new people interested in volunteering during June alone!

"Find our more about roles of staff at VCC in the "About us" section of our website.

www.volunteercentre.camden.org.uk

Promoting volunteering

The Brokerage Team has been keeping busy with all sorts of outreach these past few months. Outreach sessions can be anything from talks and presentations on volunteering to helping people to search for volunteering opportunities with our database and registration forms – or a combination of the two. And with over

300 volunteering opportunities in 31 areas of interest and 35 types of activity/skill, there's plenty to choose from!

We have recently delivered outreach sessions to clients at the Single Homelessness Project for ex-homeless clients who are recovering from alcohol and drug

addictions; a Careers Information Day for ESOL students at Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre; St Mungo's for residents at a hostel in King's Cross; Choices Open Day for students who are currently attending a course in volunteering as a pathway into paid employment and Camden Working – IAG service in Swiss Cottage and Kilburn for people in social housing who are

interested in getting paid employment through volunteering. We also had a stall at the Camden Green Fair in Regent's Park to let people know what volunteering is available in Camden – especially 'green' volunteering opportunities.

If your organisation has clients who are interested in volunteering please contact Sheila Norris, sheila@volunteercentrecamden.org.uk

