



Promoting good practice for volunteers from socially excluded groups

GoldStar Newsletter

Issue 1 – June 2007

Welcome

Hello - welcome to issue 1 of The GoldStar newsletter. GoldStar is a two year programme (2006-08) established to disseminate good practice in the development of volunteering among BME groups, people with disabilities or long-term illnesses and people with no qualifications. Although initially set up by the Active Communities Directorate's Volunteering and Charitable Giving Unit, it now falls under the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

A number of inspirational Exemplar projects have been recognised and funded by government for their good practices. The aim of the dissemination programme is to build on these projects and to identify and highlight a wide range of good practice examples, tools and volunteer case studies.

This is being achieved through a series of regional and national events supported by ongoing web forums, programmes, research and guidelines that can help voluntary projects everywhere to exchange ideas and access useful information about good practice.

For further information on GoldStar and its projects, please visit www.goldstar.org.uk

2007 Regional Roadshows

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be running a series of GoldStar events. The events are **free** and will be held at venues across the country during September and October 2007.

For a booking form and to find out where your nearest venue is please visit

http://www.goldstar.org.uk/goldstar_events.html

Spaces are limited so please book early!

Delegates attending the events can expect to...

- Gain an understanding of the GoldStar programme
- Hear inspiring examples of successful volunteering initiatives
- Have a say in how they receive good practice information
- Hear how the public and private sector can learn from volunteering organisations in relation to engaging, recruiting and/or supporting those at risk from social exclusion
- Learn how the public and private sectors can better support volunteering organisations engage in recruiting and supporting volunteers at risk from exclusion



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- Discuss how lessons from exemplar projects can be adapted for application in other voluntary organisations, or within public or private sector organisations
- Identify how your organisation can become more involved in sharing volunteering good practice

GoldStar Blog and Good practice Gallery goes live!

The new GoldStar Blog and Good practice Gallery went live on the Goldstar website this month.

This area of the website has been designed to encourage non-GoldStar projects to contribute their own good practice, and benefit from sharing their experiences with others.

To make contact with other organisations and volunteers, please visit

<http://www.goldstar.org.uk/blog/index.php>

GoldStar Volunteer Video Blogs

Over a period of 4 weeks four GoldStar volunteers undertook a tailor made media course to prepare them to track their work as volunteers. By the end of the programme, the volunteers each had a Blog that will be kept updated with text, photographs and videos to give an insight

into their work. To find out more about this piece of work please click on the link below

<http://www.goldstar.org.uk/Volunteerblogs.htm>

News from the GoldStar Projects

Chance UK launch new partnership deal with the National Children Home (NCH)

Campbell Robb, Director General of the Office of the Third Sector, launched the partnership with Jo Hobbs and Paul Vaight of Chance UK and Hugh Thornbery and Ken McDougall of NCH...

The Chance UK child mentoring programme has achieved Approved Provider Standard from the national Mentoring and Befriending Foundation and has also won awards for volunteer support, alcohol prevention among primary school children and social reform. By working with Chance UK, NCH can deliver a tried and tested, quality assured programme. *“NCH is very excited about this partnership. As one of the UK’s leading children’s charities they are totally committed to supporting the diversity and development of the sector and it is great to be working alongside an organisation like Chance UK to develop their successful work,”* says Hugh Thornbery, Director of Children’s Services at NCH. *“Chance UK are proving to be a great organisation to work with”* They have evidenced how effective they are in turning children’s lives around; they are now demonstrating their capacity to work in partnership with us to meet need in different parts of the UK



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For further information on this story, please visit

<http://www.chanceuk.com/news.htm>

Volunteer Centre Carlisle celebrate Volunteers Week

Volunteer Centre in Carlisle to mark this year's 23rd Anniversary of Volunteers' Week, organised a whole series of events and activities in and around Carlisle and district.

These included, an open event in Carlisle City Centre in conjunction with the local BBC Radio Bus and information and advisory organisations (such as, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Projects Carlisle - a local advisory support service for the homeless) and a Volunteering Fair in the rural town of Brampton in conjunction with 15 different local organisations, (such as Neighbourhood Watch and Brampton Stroke Club) promoting volunteering and good practice in these 'hard to reach areas'. Even their monthly Good Practice Guide featured tips on how to 'Recognise and Reward Your Volunteers during Volunteers' Week!

The highlight of the week was by far their **Volunteers Celebration Event**. Volunteers and staff members from local voluntary and charitable organisations were invited to come along and join in the Volunteers' Week fun and celebrations. The Mayor was present to hand out 'Thank you certificates' to the volunteers, in recognition of their contribution to the local community, (this came as a big surprise to many of their volunteers, who have since retold stories of framing their certificates with immense pride), whilst their volunteer DJ provided

music, and good food and drink was at hand to enhance the evening.

It was a fantastic event, a great success and a great opportunity to get volunteers together socially in the local area and a great way to say 'Thank you' volunteers for all their hard work and valuable contribution.



The work of the Grassroots Project at Torrige Voluntary Services (TVS) continues apace with a focus now on sharing volunteering good practice.

Part of the role of the Grassroots Project has been to recruit and support a network of volunteer "Community Contacts" in the rural communities of Torrige here in North West Devon. Community Contacts act as mini volunteer centres for TVS, helping us to find volunteers and to support their local communities by disseminating a wide range of information about services and support in and to their local areas. In turn, they have supported them as 'community activists' by providing help, advice and training around issues of volunteer management.

The project has also worked hard to find local groups and activities the volunteers they need. A visual community project, now



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just completed as we speak, has been the painting of a wall mural in the port of Bideford. A local Community Contact volunteered to co-ordinate the project, aimed at brightening up the wall which is on a major entrance route into the town. Grassroots advised on Health & Safety and volunteer management issues and helped to recruit young people to paint the final designs. So next time you visit us on your holidays, check it out!

Grassroots has also been busily distributing its own *Grassroots Toolkit*, which contains good practice information about volunteer management and volunteer recruitment and has held two very successful volunteer management training days for local Voluntary and Community Organisations - *Love Your Volunteers* and *Grow With Your Volunteers*. The topics covered by the days have included Volunteers and the Law, Recruiting Volunteers and Recruiting Young Volunteers delivered by partner organisations Exeter CVS, North Devon Voluntary Services and The Ivy Project. their TVS Champion for Mentoring and Befriending was also on hand to promote the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation Approved Provider status and to disseminate good practice in this area.

Particularly good news in May was the election of a very active Community Contact, who has been with Grassroots since autumn 2005, as a Town Councillor.

Multiple Choice Achieve APS

Multiple Choice as an organisation are keen to involve volunteers in a range of activities in order for them to expand their skills and experience. To involve a volunteer

in achieving the APS just seemed like common sense.

Zoe had been at Multiple Choice for 2 years. She had the first hand experience of mentoring and what they were evidencing was invaluable in completing a successful portfolio.

As a volunteer Zoe had largely done work with clients in a face to face setting and had rarely sat in the staff office and worked. This all changed when Multiple Choice put her forward to work towards achieving the APS.

Together they were able to meet and discuss the APS and before to long Zoe took control and came in weekly to complete the tasks. Daisy, Zoe's colleague said *"I was always there as a support and answered all questions raised. Zoe has been able to develop a range of skills from completing this and I did hear her say that she could "imagine doing project management type work!" Although I had better watch out-she might be after my job!!*



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Other News

News from the Community Channel

Media Trust is running an arts campaign branded with the Community Channel in partnership with Voluntary Arts England.

The campaign will include an Arts Festival between 22nd -29th July to be held in Newcastle's Metro Centre. Mini festivals will also take place in other areas. Brian Bell joins them as Campaign Manager in Newcastle to bring together voluntary and arts groups for what should be an arts extravaganza. Brian can be contacted via email at brian@vaengland.org.uk

Issue 2 of the GoldStar Newsletter will be dropping into your inbox very soon – if you would like to make any suggestions for any improvements to this document please email nazreen.haslett@tribalgroup.co.uk

To view more GoldStar news stories please visit

http://www.goldstar.org.uk/goldstar_news.html

Help Spread the Word!

Please remember to forward this newsletter onto any other community group or voluntary organisation you know.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter please email nazreen.haslett@tribalgroup.co.uk