



Community Volunteers Newsletter

Spring
2010

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UL STUDENTS' UNION
www.lincolnsu.com

SU Awards Night

Friday April 30th 2010

This is the first year that a collaborative SU awards evening has been held, recognising the achievements of student volunteers. Community Volunteers was one of six categories with nominations being received from fellow students and voluntary sector organisations. These were then reviewed by a panel of SU and external members. Our 5 nominees selected from all the entries were as follows:

Sian Edge - for volunteering as an Assistant Guider for the last year and for helping with the Brownies too

Leanne Moreland - for setting up and running the Maternity Buddy Project which is now in its third year

Annabel Mableson - for the invaluable work she does with, and dedication shown to, St Barnabas Hospice

Amy Spooner - for her commitment to volunteering with the Joint University Mentoring Project (JUMP) mentoring a child in foster care for 3 years

Sarah Ramsden - for volunteering with both Lincoln MIND and Addaction, as well as spending 6 weeks last summer volunteering in Africa

The awards went to: **Award for Outstanding Commitment - Leanne Moreland**
Award for Commitment - Amy Spooner

We would like to offer our congratulations to all the nominees, as well as all of our students who volunteer in the community and whose work is greatly appreciated and is so valuable to those they help.

Pictured here are (left to right): Annabel Mableson, Amy Spooner, Leanne Moreland & Sian Edge



Case Studies: Police Specials and St Francis School

Matt Budd is a community volunteer at St Francis Community School. Here he talks about his experience:

"My experiences working as a volunteer teaching assistant at St. Francis School have taught me a lot about myself as well as the people around me. Not only has my time there been valuable experience for postgraduate study but also has placed me in a very challenging and demanding environment and allowed me to really pursue my goal of teaching for the first time. I've worked supporting students with their lessons both in the classroom and on a one-to-one basis with many great kids and been given a lot of responsibility as well as support during my time there. Though working with special needs students is not for everyone, I've found that it has taken me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to build up my confidence in the classroom environment."

Matt Budd

"I was struggling to gain work experience from the Police because of the sensitive nature of which the organisation operates and I wouldn't be able to 'go out' with the officers either. That's when someone pointed me in the direction of the Special Constabulary. I agreed to attend a small meeting run through the Community Volunteers service in the S.O.A.P. Centre at the University. The meeting was with a member of the recruitment team at Lincolnshire Police. Not knowing anything about the Special Constabulary at all, I went to find out more. I expected the role to be very limiting in the things that you could do and that you would have similar responsibilities to a Community Support Officer. I honestly thought I would be supervising village fetes. I was amazed to find out that you literally have the same powers as a regular officer meaning full powers of arrest. I also found out that you get involved with general duties which the Police face including responding to 999 calls which could lead to anything. This meant then that the role of a Special is practically the same as a regular Police Officer."



I applied for the Specials in December 2008. The recruitment team were very helpful and I had been invited to an interview by the start of February 2009. I was very nervous but somehow pulled through it and passed the interview stage. Unlike applying for the position of a regular Police Officer, I did not have to attend the assessment centre in Coventry. Instead they go over your application form with a fine tooth comb marking it for grammar and spelling. It seemed I was on the home stretch, but I had to pass a medical exam and pass various background checks to ensure I wasn't a mass murderer! I started my training in July 2009 and got 'sworn in' at the end of October that year. The training was spread over 8 weekends and followed a weekend on - weekend off pattern so I was still able to carry on my part time job. We covered areas such as arrests, thefts, traffic control, public order, and personal safety where we hit each other with batons and sprayed CS Gas.

I did my first shift with 2 other Specials that were on my intake. We were in a van together with a Sergeant and another Officer. I didn't know what to expect from the Friday night mayhem but it seems that young teenagers can be worse than grown adults. Since then I have chased people down roads for breaking into houses, chased people over walls I didn't even think I could climb, searched houses for stolen property, breathalysed drivers and patrolled around the City Centre."

Gareth Hopkins, Special Constable of Lincolnshire Police

'The Showroom' Project

The world class youth centre for Lincoln, 'The Showroom' is now gathering momentum as the YMCA successfully purchased the disused car showroom on Tritton Rd that will be converted into a spectacular facility for the young people of the city and county. The project is thanks to funding from the Department of Children, Schools and Families as part of the 'Myplace' scheme.

Due to be open late in 2010, The Showroom will contain a climbing centre, hair and beauty salon, performance venue, restaurant, indoor astro-cage, photography studio, recording studio, internet cafe and much more.

"This is one of the most exciting projects to ever happen in Lincolnshire. With £5million invested in this project by the Department of Children, Schools and Families; between the partner organisations and Lindum Construction we can build something really quite special. Never again should I hear a teenager in Lincoln say there's nothing to do!"

Dean Graham, YMCA Business Manager

One of the main requirements to have been successful with the funding was continuous consultation with young people to make sure that the facility is exactly what young people want. As a result, the aim is to now set up a Young Person Board who will consult on all areas of the project whilst the building is being renovated and then once it is open.

The Young Person Board will consist of at least 20 individuals aged between 13–24. Six members of this board will then be elected to sit on the main Project Partnership Board which includes senior managers of all the partner organisations as well as elected Lincoln councillors.

Requirements –

- * Must be aged between 13 and 24
- * Must be able to attend most board meetings (estimated 1 or 2 per month in early evening).
- * Ideally staying local during summer holiday 2010 although provision for email based contribution would be considered.

(A maximum of 4 students from Lincoln University are being recruited for this opportunity.)

Other volunteer roles will be available when The Showroom is open. These include sport, radio and media, drama and dance, IT and child care opportunities.

If you are interested in being involved please contact Community Volunteers (details on page 6).

You can follow the progress of The Showroom on Facebook. Just search for 'Showroom Lincoln'

As well as the regular volunteering opportunities made available by Community Volunteers, we also have a range of one off events that happen throughout the year. Many organisations get in contact with us for events such as the Lincoln 10k run and Cancer Research promotions. These such things are perfect for those who would like to volunteer but do not have regular slots of free time to commit to an organisation.

If you are interested in receiving information about one off events, please register with Community Volunteers. (contact details available on page 6) On your registration form, please specify that you are interested mainly in one off projects.

Cancer Research - Race for life - 2 volunteers took part in a promotion event at the Odeon Cinema.



Volunteers also took part in marshalling duties on Sunday 21st March for the Lincoln 10K run.



Volunteers took part in a 'Bag Pack' at Morrison's supermarket to raise funds for Shepherd Food Ministries – A Farm project in Nigeria to feed the hungry. The project was set up by one of our Journalism lecturers.



A progress video on the Project is now on You Tube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4h2QC1o7QM>

Places are still available for anyone interested in taking part in this year's Village Experience programme with People First International, volunteering in India in August. Jane & Pam took part in the visit last year & they can give first hand information about the trip.

**student
volunteering
week** 22nd - 26th February 2010

Heritage at Risk

The Heritage at Risk programme aims to understand the overall state of England's heritage by assessing each of its different components.

The programme recruited during Volunteering week but are still looking for Heritage Stewards to carry out surveys of historic buildings, sites and open spaces.

Police Role Plays

As a result of Volunteers Week, 15 students signed up to take part in Police Role Plays. Dates and locations for these Role Plays are currently being decided so watch this space!

JUMP -Joint Universities Mentoring Project

Advance Recruiting



Volunteers from Lincoln University have recently been entered for a Higher Education Student Volunteer Project Award. The Higher Education Academy and CRAC jointly sponsor the awards and successful winner presentations will take place at the Higher Education Conference in June.

Corrie Melvin, JUMP Project Coordinator (CFBT) supported the entry with this statement:-

“The aim of JUMP is to provide enhanced opportunities for a target group of children in care to experience a selected range of activities and be supported by university students as positive role models. This project believes that the key to raising the academic achievement of children in care lies in raising their self-esteem and confidence. By providing opportunities for them to participate in a variety of activities we hope we can help raise aspirations and self esteem, increase confidence and self-belief resulting in the longer-term benefit of raised educational achievement. JUMP provides opportunities for young people to try new experiences, make new friends and have fun all within a safe and secure infrastructure organised and professionally coordinated.

Evidence from a study by Jackson and Martin identified that meeting a significant adult who acted as a consistent mentor or role model is an important factor in enhancing attainment.. We believe that university students are ideal for this role. Students can knowledgeably talk about University life, they are close in age and we believe that the young people will be prepared to listen and take on board what they say. The relationship that they can build with a young person is on a more equal footing and can be a valuable experience for both the mentor and the young person. This project enables volunteers to develop their own personal skills, confidence and self-esteem as well as having a rewarding and fun experience.”

Corrie Melvin
Children's Workforce Development Officer
CfBT Education Trust

Volunteers are required for September in primary and secondary age groups. An initial intensive training programme will commence after recruitment and throughout you will receive reimbursement of expenses. We are looking for students with commitment, enthusiasm and a sense of humour to act as positive role models to make a difference to these young people.

Primary Age Mentor

You will be: -

- assigned to engage with a child who is aged between 9 – 11 years old, who attends a primary school in Lincoln
- asked to attend the activity sessions with your mentee
- expected to attend fortnightly sessions at the On Target Study Support Centre at Lincoln City football ground. (Previously held on a Thursday evening from 4-6.30pm) At the end of each activity session an essential debriefing and planning meeting will be held from 6.30pm – 7.00pm
- required to take a lead role as part of a rota for bus escort. As bus escort you will be required to greet the children, ensure their safety and security (e.g. ensure that they are wearing seat belts) and to stay with them on the bus whilst travelling to the study support centre

Secondary Age Mentor

You will be: -

- assigned to engage with a child who is aged between 11 – 14 years old
- expected to meet with your young person at least once a fortnight for an informal meeting e.g. going to the cinema or helping with homework
- responsible for organising the fortnightly meetings and liaise appropriately with their foster carers about specific arrangements and timings
- involved with mentoring meetings
- required to keep a monthly meeting log and submit this to the project coordinator at specific times throughout the year
- expected to attend the fortnightly meetings and centrally organised trips

Community Volunteers
 SOAP Centre
 Students' Union
 Student Centre
 Brayford Pool
 Lincoln
 LN6 7TS

Phone: 01522 886922/6420
 Fax: 01522 886628

E-mail:
 jkilby@lincoln.ac.uk
 pholbrook@lincoln.ac.uk

Access Online

We are part of the Students' Union website, containing details of all our current opportunities, copies of the Newsletter, links to related websites and how to apply on line.

This can be viewed at www.lincolnsu.com/volunteer

Progress-Volunteers placed January to date

Local Schools: 15 students have been placed in primary schools in the area since January with a number of them working at St Francis school assisting disabled children.

Websites: 6 students are currently involved in volunteering for a number of organisations to aid their website design.

Promotion and Fundraising: Since January, 5 students have been involved in the promotion and fundraising of charities such as Cancer Research and Women's Refuge.

Lincoln 10k run: 5 students volunteered as marshals for the Lincoln 10k run in March.

Youth Support: 4 students are currently supporting young people through mentoring.



Current Volunteering Opportunities

Here are just some of our current opportunities - please contact us for further information about these or any of our opportunities:

Schools and Education

We have established new links with a variety of local primary schools in the area. These opportunities are invaluable if you are thinking of going in to teaching.

Victim Support

Victim Support is a national charity which helps people affected by crime in England and Wales. Volunteers are needed for the Witness Service (support in court), supporting witnesses in their homes and answering phones in the call centres.

Catch 22

Catch22 is a national charity that works with young people who find themselves in difficult situations. Volunteer opportunities include life skills supporters, reception assistants and handy person/gardener.

Independent Age

Independent Age helps older people on low incomes to live with dignity and peace of minds in their later years. They provide a range of support including visitor support and hospital stay packs.

Lincoln Conservation Group

The group carry out practical work in Lincoln with regular weekends away.

Useful Websites

www.lincolnsu.com/volunteer

www.studentvol.org.uk

www.csv.org.uk

www.do-it.org

www.lcvys.com

www.vinspired.com

www.volunteercentrelincoln.org.uk

