

13/2007

23 July 2007

vcashpoint grants awarded

The youth volunteering charity, v, is hosting a launch event on Saturday 21 July, 10:30am to 4pm at Reading Football Club, to announce the first round of vcashpoint grants for young people to set up their own community projects across England.

Volunteers from the 72 successful projects have been invited to officially accept their grant of up to £2,500 and take part in a series of workshops. The workshops, run by young people from v20, v's youth advisory board, who have designed and developed vcashpoint from its inception, will focus on finance, project management and communications, and there will also be interactive demonstrations on blogging and fund raising opportunities.

The charity, in partnership with HSBC Bank, is offering £1 million over two years to help young people aged 16 to 25 get their projects off the ground. This is the first of four vcashpoint grant rounds to be awarded. The next round of the innovative funding initiative will be available in Autumn 2007.

vcashpoint is a youth-led initiative and the projects funded seek to inspire youth volunteering by tapping into their concerns. with an emphasis on encouraging the creativity, passions and concerns of young people. The vcashpoint projects meet a wide variety of local community needs, including:

- Co-ordinating football training and a tournament for disadvantaged young people
- Workshops to encourage and promote art, culture and innovation demonstrated by talented young people from all backgrounds
- Arranging fun and educational trips for children with special needs
- Improving communal leisure areas on a housing estate
- Organising a young lesbian and bi-sexual women's summer camp

Sue Wicks, v Head of Programmes, explained the concept behind the event saying: “We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and creativity of young people who are passionate about setting up their own volunteering project. This event has been designed to help people to gain the skills and networking relationships they will need to fulfill the amazing potential of their projects.”

Joanna Theodoulou from v20, says youth volunteering is a powerful resource: “The project ideas people have come up with are great. It goes to show that given a chance young people have the insight to know the needs of their local communities, and fantastic ideas to really make a difference. This event is great, because it’s a chance to bring young volunteers together to show that what they are doing as individuals are part of the bigger picture and can make an impact across England.”

For more information about vcashpoint visit www.wearev.com

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Notes to Editor

- v is the youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers in England aged 16-25. v is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.
- The charity was set up to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission outlining a new national framework for youth action and engagement, following a nationwide consultation which included 6000 young people.
- v is led by the cares, interests, passions and beliefs of young people. A Youth Advisory Board made up of twenty young people called v20 is involved in all aspects of the charity’s work. Four members of v20 sit on v’s Board of Trustees.
- v works with and builds upon the current voluntary sector infrastructure, funds the creation of volunteering opportunities through grants rounds and implements programmes to create awareness and positive understanding of volunteering for young people. For more information on v, visit www.wearev.com
- HSBC Bank has committed £500,000 over two years to vcashpoint as part of the vMatch Fund programme – a unique initiative by which v accesses government funds to match up to 100% of private sector donations to youth volunteering projects.