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## **v provides 'lost generation' with volunteering opportunities in the wake of latest unemployment figures released today**

New statistics released today have revealed that unemployment figures have risen 2.44 million (up by 220,000 in three months, since the end of June) leaving many school leavers and graduates void of job options and 1.58 million claiming job seekers allowance and uncertain about their future.

In response to the new figures, **v**, the National Young Volunteers Service, believes that volunteering is the viable way for young people to enter their chosen industry whilst building up the necessary skills set needed for the world of work. Over the last 12 months, **v** has seen a surge in demand in volunteering opportunities with online applications to their web portal [vinspired.com](http://vinspired.com) having increased by nearly 200%.

**v**'s Chief Executive **Terry Ryall** said *'Figures released today serve to highlight how competitive the current job market is and that the future for our young people is uncertain. At **v**, we are encouraging 16-25 year olds to look at new ways of building up their cv to help them stand out from the crowd. There are thousands of different volunteering opportunities available at [vinspired.com](http://vinspired.com), from environmental projects to football and fashion. Getting involved with a project you are passionate about will not only benefit your community, but it will help you to build up the skills necessary for entering the job market.'*

**v** recently conducted The Ipsos MORI research (2009) - one of the most important pieces of research ever carried out among young people and their views of full time volunteering. The research called 'Young People Speak Out', showed that over half (57%) of young people would consider volunteering if unemployment levels continue to rise.

Evidence also suggests that young people who are engaged in volunteering are more employable. The YouGov employer research 'Attitudes to Volunteering and Career Progression' (2009) showed that three-quarters (72%) of employers agree or strongly agree that volunteering can have a positive effect on an individual's career progression.

**How can the younger generation secure employment in light of the recession? What job opportunities are realistically achievable for 16-25 year olds in today's market? **v**'s Chief executive Terry Ryall and Director of Corporate Affairs Jayne Colquhoun are available for immediate commentary or interviews.**

To arrange an interview or for case study opportunities, please contact David Slade on 020 7100 7100 or [david.slade@shinecom.com](mailto:david.slade@shinecom.com)

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## Notes to Editors: about v

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**v, The National Young Volunteers Service** aims to inspire a new generation of volunteers (aged 16-25) in England. It does this by funding voluntary organisations all over England to create inspiring, diverse opportunities and by helping to overcome barriers that stop people from taking action to improve lives, communities and the planet. **v's** aim is to create a culture where volunteering comes naturally and where the benefits of volunteering are understood and celebrated.

**v** is an independent charity launched in May 2006 as a result of the Russell Commission report, A National Framework for Youth Action and Engagement.

See [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com) for more information (including full copies of the reports)

### [Young People Speak Out: Attitudes to and Perceptions of Volunteering](#)

June 2009: The first ever comprehensive research into young people's attitudes and perceptions of full-time volunteering. The evidence from the survey of 1,997 young people, discussion groups and case studies suggests full time volunteering should remain as one option of a flexible and diverse range of opportunities. The research highlights the importance of young people's freedom to choose the most appropriate placement and the continued need to raise awareness and challenge the perceptions of volunteering. The research looks at the specific needs of disabled young people and those not in education or employment (NEET) in relation to full time volunteering.

### [Employer Survey: Attitudes to Volunteering and Career Progression](#)

January 2009: To coincide with the launch of the vinspired award scheme, v commissioned YouGov to undertake a survey of employers to further explore how much and why employers value the skills that can be obtained through volunteering experiences. The results help to feed into the debate about the benefits of volunteering for career progression.