

003/2006

24th July 2006

v busy summer – v announces more than 9,000 new volunteering opportunities

Kicking off the summer, v announces that twenty eight organisations will provide over 9,000 new volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds this summer as part of v's work to inspire a million more young volunteers.

Activities will include helping to organise and promote the Cornwall Film Festival, nature conservation on Wormwood Scrubs in West London and running community sports days. A wide range of activities aims to attract young people from all backgrounds including projects targeted at young people with physical and learning disabilities.

These activities are designed to be youth-friendly, fun and a great way of meeting new people, and also helping the community or environment. They aim to give young people a taste of what volunteering can offer and encourage them to continue.

Chief Executive of v, Terry Ryall says "We're really excited that the first wave of new volunteering opportunities are off and running. There are some fantastic voluntary projects for young people to get involved in this summer - from motor mechanics in Devon to theatre production in Deptford. We're delighted to be giving more than 9,000 young people the chance to start volunteering this summer"

The volunteering projects, which are spread across England, will start within the next few weeks.

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For further information please contact:

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Notes to editors:

- v's first grants round was launched on 8th May 2006 and included full time, part time and short term opportunity allocations
- Successful applicants for short-term opportunities are as follows:

Organisation:

One World Foundation Africa	London
Second Wave	London
VSU Youth in Action	Kent
Sport Northumbria Foundation	North East
SCAN (Newcastle)	Newcastle
Groundwork West London	London
Southend Association of Voluntary Services	Essex
Vital Regeneration	London
IP1	Ipswich
Sefton Council for Voluntary Services	North West
FOCUS	East Mids
BTCV	South West
Ryburn Valley Millenium Volunteer Unit	Yorks
Student Force for Sustainability	East Mids
Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteer Centre	London
Youth Culture Television	London
Youth Action Volunteering Enfield	London
North Warwickshire CVS	West Mids
Bolton Lads and Girls Club	North West
Devon Youth Association	South West
Dhiverse	Cambs
Youth Federation from Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and the Wirral	North West
Cornwall Film Festival	South West
SOVA	Sheffield
Groundwork Hertfordshire	Herts
Groundwork Wakefield	Yorks
MAD (Make A Difference)	South East
Aylesbury Youth Action	Bucks

Based:

- Decisions relating to the part time and full time opportunities will be announced in September.
- v is the new youth volunteering charity which aims to inspire a million more young volunteers aged 16-25. It was set up upon the recommendation of the Russell Commission which outlined a new national framework for youth action and engagement following a nationwide consultation. The charity launched on 8th May 2006.
- v is led by the cares, interests, passions and beliefs of young people. An 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.

- The Government has allocated £50 million over three years to support the implementation of the Russell Commission's recommendations. The new charity will also have a target of raising £50 million from the private sector. Funding raised from the private sector will be matched on a pound for pound basis by the Exchequer, unlocking potentially an additional £50 million.
- Feedback and advice is being provided to organisations that weren't successful in this round. v has offered a free programme of capacity building activities to support organisations to work with young volunteers (called Ready, Steady, Go). In due course good practice resources will also be made available via the wearev website
- Suitable organisations that can secure private sector support to create or extend volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds, may be able to have that support matched by v.
- Details of local voluntary projects can be obtained via the internet at www.do-it.org or www.timebank.org.uk, by accessing the Community Channel (available on Sky, NTL, Telewest and Freeview) or by contacting your local volunteer centre (find their details on www.volunteering.org.uk).
- For further details about v please visit: www.wearev.com