

JAN 2010

action!



THE MAGAZINE OF YOUNG CITIZENS IN ACTION.

EDITORS MESSAGE

GET INVOLVED

WEBSITE

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

VOLUNTEER ABROAD

VOLUNTEERING IN A
RECESSION

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

ORGANISATION PROFILE

SOS

WHEEL WORKS



gap year

do good things

contact us

Action Magazine
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action!

p8

Volunteering Abroad.
Thinking of taking a
break? See the world
and help others.
Read on.

THE MAGAZINE OF YOUNG CITIZENS IN ACTION.

- 2 EDITORS MESSAGE
- 3 GET INVOLVED
- 4 WEBSITE
- 5 VOLUNTEER PROFILE
- 6 VOLUNTEERING NI
- 8 VOLUNTEER ABROAD
- 10 VOLUNTEERING IN A RECESSION
- 12 VOLUNTEER PROFILE
- 14 ORGANISATION PROFILE
- 16 SOS
- 18 WHEEL WORKS
- 19 VOLUNTEER PROFILE
- 20 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



editors message

ladies and gentlemen, raise your glasses and with gusto toast your very own editor. surely the finest wordsmith in the profession, but don't call him shirley...



Hello again readers!

My name is Chris Guilfoyle and I'm editor of the Action Magazine for the past few years, thankfully all uprisings against my editorial rule have been quelled for the moment.

The theme of this magazine is volunteering in a recession and how it has helped and hindered volunteering. As part of this we have profiles of various organisations based in Northern Ireland you can volunteer with, information on how to volunteer overseas, as well as volunteer profiling from young people who have volunteered with the different organisations. Some of these organisations include Wheelworks and the SOS Bus. For people coming into Northern Ireland though we have a volunteer story about what its like to volunteer in this country as a foreigner.

We're also celebrating our brand new website which will be up and running very shortly, thanks to those of you who gave feedback online for it! For more information on what the new website will be like just read the article in this issue.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we have enjoyed writing it. And remember, if you have any feedback or would like to contribute to the magazine just e-mail, phone or pop into one of your volunteering offices around Northern Ireland (contact details at the front of the magazine).

Until Next Time

Chris

how to get involved

you know you want to,
it's a good thing to do,
so get in touch,
ah go on...

Young Citizens In Action is the youth department within Voluntary Service Bureau (VSB). The project aims to resource, support and empower young people aged 16-30 to make a valid contribution to their community through volunteering. We can offer you the opportunity to get involved in a range of youth led projects.

Interested in getting involved? Here is a step by step guide:-

Contact us at Voluntary Service Bureau by: -

Telephone 028 90200850

Fax 02890200860

Website www.vsb.org.uk
www.youngcitizens.org.uk
www.volunteernow.org.uk

Email info@vsb.org.uk

We will arrange for you to come into the office for an informal chat and take you through our volunteer registration form. Once the registration form is completed, we will look at what your interests are and match you with a suitable volunteer placement.

Not only can you get involved in Young Citizens In Action projects, we work with over 800 organisations registered with us within the Greater Belfast area, Castlereagh and North Down and Ards and Fermanagh. Placements depend upon what you are interested in, the time you have to give and the area of Belfast you would like to volunteer in.

So why not contact us to find out more!

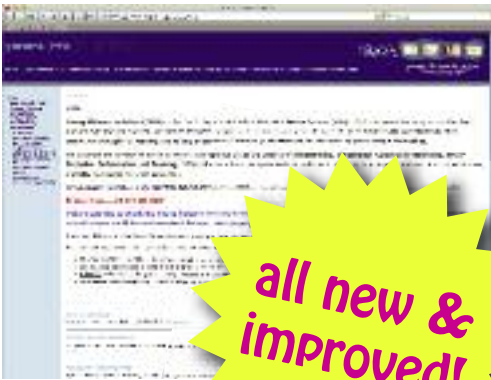


Roisin Timlin
Senior Project Worker
roisin@vsb.org.uk



website

we're sure you have heard of it? the internet? it's like this big chunk of information you can look at on your computer. we have a website but it may be time for a change...



all new & improved!

It on it way, it all new and exiting.....

Young citizens' website has been under construction and is in the final stages of being launched!!!!!!

Look out for the new site and log on have a look @ www.youngcitizens.org.uk

Volunteer Strategy

Young citizens in Action volunteers took part in responding to DSD's volunteering strategy and the following recommendations were made.

Recommendations to government

The young people made a number of recommendations for government to consider; the strongest recommendation was that volunteering was a very positive experience and should be encouraged from an early age; secondly they wanted to see government recognition in the form of promotion and funding, an 'Award' for long-term volunteers and acknowledgement of the contribution that volunteers make to society. Recognised qualifications for volunteering and more volunteering places provided for young people through schools, employment and through their local community. Volunteer expenses are an important means to enable young people to volunteer.

volunteer profile

fionnuala boosted her work skills by volunteering instead of taking a gap year. Maybe this is the way to go for you too?



Name: Fionnuala McKenna

Age: 22

Rather than take a gap year during my time at university I decided to gain some work experience so I volunteered in two local volunteer centres in my area. During my volunteering I got to help out on many different community projects that worked alongside both old and young people from all social backgrounds, I feel this really helped me improve a lot of my skills, such as communication and my ability to work as part of a team. It also boosted my self confidence and made me realise how much I enjoy working within the community sector. It also gave me a better understanding of how the voluntary sector and a lot of charities work. This experience opened a lot of opportunities and it even led me to paid employment within the community sector.

Giving up my free time to volunteer really benefited me personally and the experience I have gained is invaluable, I would recommend it to anyone, not only does it enhance your CV but it can help you decide the career you want to embark on and it benefits the local community!



volunteering in northern ireland

a different view on volunteering in northern ireland - from someone who came here from abroad

Ariane Apodaca age 24 is from France she was volunteering in Belfast for 3 months as an ESV volunteer. and became involved in volunteering through VSB and Bryson House this is her story...

Although many people have a negative opinion on Northern Ireland and Belfast in particular – especially after all the awful events that took part in the city in late June – this land hides a gem for those willing to look beyond the surface. Hanging in the air like the scent of blooming roses at Botanic Gardens, swirls an unflinching spirit that heralds the change we've been longing for. A change that the citizens of Belfast have made possible by pushing aside their own needs to concentrate on those or others less fortunate. A change that drags crowds from all over the world for bigger causes than themselves without a second thought, no matter if that may mean taking part in a leg breaking marathon or dressing up as a Meteor dancer for the city carnival. Any opportunity is as good as any other to go the distance and try to make a difference in a world that seems to be more dehumanising than ever before. With the exception of this still violence stricken piece of land.

Though it may seem ironic despite all that talk about violence, it's in Northern Ireland where I have felt most at home and where I've experienced like nowhere else an

overwhelming consciousness that we are in fact able to change things if we all work together with one goal in mind: helping others. Throughout the city there are groups and events focusing on the many needs of both poor or ill people that welcome anyone who will be willing to lend a helping hand and that even if you attend as a tourist will delight you and enhance your travelling or living abroad experience to a more meaningful level. From festivals to music at the parks, there are so many things going on that you'll find it hard not to get involved one way or another and would be glad to do so because you'll never guess how much you get in return when you put something in.

Volunteering not only gives you the chance to make the community you live in a better place but allows you to draw a curtain to a side of Northern Ireland that I never dreamed of while packing my suitcases. Like for example the amount of people that I've met since I began volunteering at Action! Magazine for VSB. It was by chatting to these locals that I learnt the most interesting facts about the city and not by what travel guides or brochures tried to sell me. You also get to experience another side of a country when you get involved in their traditions, like when my friends volunteered for the Belfast City Carnival. Watching them parading along the streets, plastering smiles on strangers' faces and making the world spin at a merrier



Belfast City Carnival

rhythm for a brief yet intense period of time will forever be one of the highlights of this live changing trip. And I can be almost certain that it won't be only my favourite highlight but also that of the ones who were touched by them. Because that's part of the magic that comes with volunteering, it makes you exist in other people's lives forever and while you remember that moment with a smile on your face you can be sure of one thing: so will they.

So next time you are overseas don't hesitate. Volunteer.

Concert and food at Botanic Gardens for the homeless



volunteering abroad

want to see a bit of the world while still helping others? this could be what you have been looking for. read on.

Volunteering overseas is a good experience for everybody. It gives the person new experiences and a lot to learn while they are there. They learn so much about the culture and the people who live in the area. You can volunteer nearly anywhere in the world except Antarctica. People mostly volunteer in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The different types of volunteering

- You can volunteer with the charities that provide emergency relief when a disaster happens.
 - Other people may wish to volunteer in orphanages. They can also give their time in schools, educating both children and adults.
 - People can volunteer in the construction to help build schools and help build anything that is required.
 - Any professional that works in the healthcare industry can help overseas in different projects such as immunisation programmes. Non professional people can also provide help in this area.
 - They can help people sell products that they have made. This would involve getting everybody to work in the village to produce it. People with experience in the agriculture industry can also help in the villages.
 - You can also volunteer helping to staff the projects and be in charge of young people.
- There are also conservation opportunities in helping with looking after national parks and forests around the world as well as wildlife or specific species.
 - Marine conservation combines elements of both conservation and wildlife volunteering.

Some volunteering would be funded by the organisation that you are going through and any fees will be paid for. Some places may even offer volunteers money to live on every month.

However, different types of organisations may expect you to pay for your placement and charities will expect you to fundraise for the trip. You could advertise in the local newspaper to attract sponsors or you could hold a fundraising day.

List of what is required

Airline tickets
Accommodation, food and drink
Laundry
Travel insurance
Internet access
Mobile phone
Buying presents
Departure tax
Travelling on the local transport
Organising your passport
Credit cards/ debit cards

You can also organise the volunteering yourself. You would have to fund flights, accommodation and food. This may lead to lot of problems because you don't know what you



are letting yourself in for in the country you are going to volunteer in. You would have to research everything about the country and the type of volunteering you plan to do.

The main organisations for international volunteering would be:

- Voluntary Service Overseas.
- European Voluntary Service
- Volunteer Abroad NI

Make sure when you are there that everything you have is going to be safe. In-country costs will differ depending on where you decide to volunteer, but your organisation should be able to provide more information on this. The organisation will get you the placement that you want depending on the amount of people involved.

European Voluntary Service

This is funded by the European Union. This organisation pays you to volunteer in another country, covering costs including accommodation, food, language training and international travel costs.

Placements are organised through the volunteer, a local sending organisation and a host organisation and usually last between 6 and 12 months. To increase your chance of being selected apply at least 9 months in advance, show dedication to the project and possess some foreign-language skills. You have to apply through local sending organisations and be aged between 18 and 30 years. There are five deadlines for submitting applications; 1st February, 1st April, 1st June, 1st September and 1st November.

BOARDING PASS

07A

FLIGHT NO:
EI0023

BOARDING TIME:
09.45

GATE:
D51

CLASS:
Y

SEAT:
07A

* CHECK TICKETS IF YOUR GATE NUMBER IS STILL UP TO DATE.
AFTER BOARDING COMMENCEMENT TIME PASSENGERS WILL BE REFUSED.

NAME:
YOU?

FROM:
AMSTERDAM/AMS

FREQUENT FLYER NO.:

DATE:
09MAY09

TO:
RELFAS/RELS

SELF SERVICE C/I

YOU ARE FLYING WITH: AEW LINDUS

DEPARTURE TIME: 10.15

ETKT: 2011241090732

SECURITY NO.: **049**

PASSPORT: 450413776

NATIONALITY: GB



To get information about how to get into the European Voluntary Service this website provides sending organisations in Northern Ireland:

www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-programmes-evs.htm

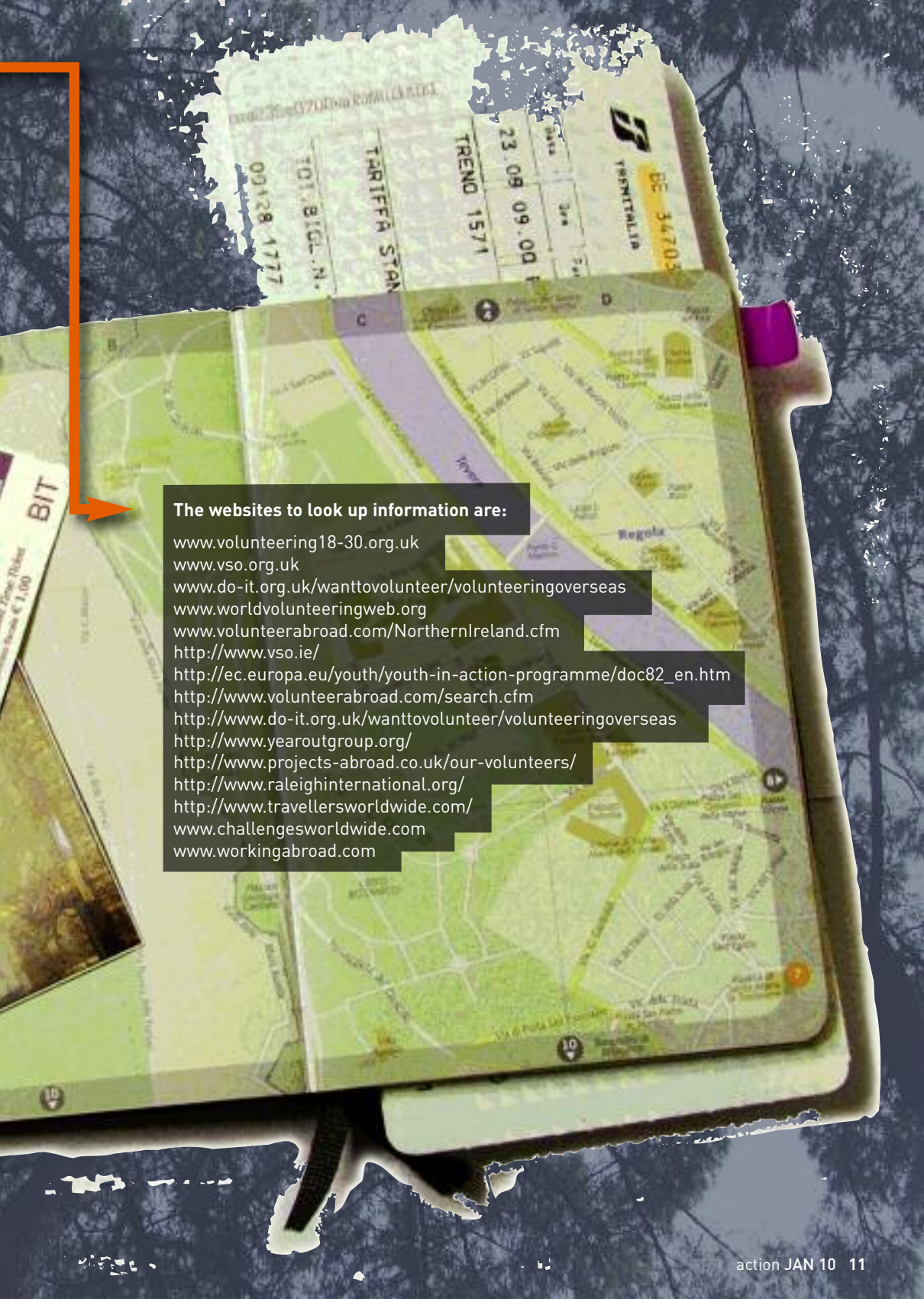
Global Xchange

This is another programme from the VSO and it starts in March and September of every year. It is similar to the Youth Development Programme but involves team building. This includes a six month placement involving nine people and it happens twice a year. They first of all are placed with nine overseas people to spend three months together in the UK. After that they spend three months in the country where the overseas volunteers come from. On both occasions the volunteers stay with a host family. The programme includes working with senior citizens, children and communities. You must be aged between 18 and 25 years and pay £600 towards the programme with VSO paying for medical costs, training, international travel, accommodation, food, visas and a monthly allowance.

Youth for Development Programme VSO

This volunteer programme focuses on six main areas; education, HIV and AIDS, disability, health and social well-being, participation and governance and secure livelihoods. Volunteers will be expected to complete a Global Action Project which aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of worldwide issues. You must be aged between 18 and 25 years and placements start in August, September and October every year. They expect you to provide €900 towards your placement. Everything else is paid for by the VSO. You would have to apply early with 10 months notice and interviews will take place to determine who they want to volunteer.





The websites to look up information are:

www.volunteering18-30.org.uk

www.vso.org.uk

www.do-it.org.uk/wanttovolunteer/volunteeringoverseas

www.worldvolunteeringweb.org

www.volunteerabroad.com/NorthernIreland.cfm

<http://www.vso.ie/>

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc82_en.htm

<http://www.volunteerabroad.com/search.cfm>

<http://www.do-it.org.uk/wanttovolunteer/volunteeringoverseas>

<http://www.yearoutgroup.org/>

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/our-volunteers/>

<http://www.raleighinternational.org/>

<http://www.travellersworldwide.com/>

www.challengesworldwide.com

www.workingabroad.com

volunteering in a recession

you may have heard, we're in a recession. how does it affect those wanting to volunteer and those seeking volunteers?

As a result of the recession many young people and adults are now out of work, this has prompted a booming interest in volunteering.

The British Red Cross says it has seen inquiries about volunteering opportunities quadruple since the downturn began. Mary Anne Burton, head of volunteering for the British Red Cross said: "The number of inquiries we've received has increased sharply as the recession has taken hold. We're seeing people who have been made redundant or taken early retirement, and a rising number of young people who are anxious about the tough job market they are about to enter."

The charity offers training for qualifications and says volunteering could help people back into work.

Warren Baldock, 19, started volunteering with the British Red Cross in 2008. He works in the charity's Home from Hospital scheme. "At the moment the jobs market, especially for younger people, is almost non-existent," he said. "I found it very hard to find even part-time work when I was a student, and the recession has made the situation much worse. I know a lot of people are leaving university with degrees, but not finding work, so I think I've been really lucky." The Red Cross figures echo findings

published late last year by volunteering charity VSO, which said it had seen inquiries about volunteering double. This story is being repeated in other volunteer organizations across the UK.

While the numbers of volunteers may be rising, many voluntary organisations and charities are still being hit negatively by the recession due to funding problems. Demand for help is soaring while funds are harder to source states Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (VONNE). Hardest hit are charities advising on debt, family breakdown and mental health issues, the survey found. A third of groups questioned for the study are having to turn people away due to 'Inadequate funding'. More than half of the volunteer groups questioned were already seeing a downturn in their funding and predicted further decreases this year.

Want to know more?

Anyone can volunteer. It doesn't matter how much or how little time you have to give, there will be something to suit you.

www.redcross.org.uk





“

“At the moment the jobs market, especially for younger people, is almost non-existent. I found it very hard to find even part-time work when I was a student, and the recession has made the situation much worse. I know a lot of people are leaving university with degrees, but not finding work, so I think I’ve been really lucky.”

Warren Baldock

volunteer profile

Paul volunteered and enjoyed it, fancy giving it a go?

Name: Paul Fegan

Age: 23

You recently spent ten weeks volunteering abroad. Tell us a bit about this.

I recently volunteered with an organisation called Platform 2. Basically it is a global volunteering scheme for 18-25year olds. The programme offers a chance to get involved with global issues of justice and poverty and volunteers have the choice to visit either: Ghana, Peru, Kenya, India, South Africa or Nepal. I got chosen to go to Kenya. It is completely funded by UK aid from the Department for International Development (DFID). I actually only had to pay for my flights from Belfast to Heathrow and everything from food, flights accommodation was covered; I even got £12 a week pocket money, which isn't a lot but it is twice the average Kenyan weekly wage.

What tasks etc did you carry out?

At the time there were two groups in Kenya, one group were based up in Meru; they were helping with deforestation and I was based in Thigio just outside Kikuyu. Initially I was helping to paint schools but the company who supplied the paint CFD, refused to release any more funds while we were there, so we only got painting half of the school, so we got involved in producing learning aids instead, such as posters and paintings to help with maths, science and other subjects. We also spent some time gardening and creating flower beds and on a Saturday we did a lot of interaction with the community, everyone were dedicated a host family where, we spent time getting involved with their everyday activities such as feeding the animals, cooking, chopping maize etc. This was an excellent way of getting to know the African culture. As well as that we got involved with other community based activities such as going to the Special Olympics and playing sports activities with them.

On a Wednesday as well, we worked with the local community; at the minute Kenya is facing the

biggest drought it has ever had so the locals are in the middle of building a big dam to try and collect the water to use it, so we took this opportunity to get involved with that.

Why did you decide to go away?

Initially I had been trying to get as much experience as I could for my university course. I applied to a few places like the J1 programme in America. But my housemate actually found out about the Platform 2 programme last year when he was in China so we both decided to apply for it and got accepted.

What did you like most about your trip?

I wouldn't say what I liked the most I would say what I have learnt, the educational side of it. There was one story that really stood out to me, one day I got to go and visit the local people in the community suffering from AIDS. There are four nuns in Kenya who set up a programme to help the local people suffering from AIDS. They give medication to three hundred and sixty adults and sixty five children so they have to go round each patient once a month to make sure everyone is taking their medication and so one guy I visited was in his fifties, he had no family and because of the whole stigma with aids, his neighbours refuse to go near him. He lives in a small mud hut with just a bed and a desk, no electricity or running water, his toilet is just a massive hole out the back of the hut, not even a proper squat toilet. He was too sick to work and his only source of food is what the nuns bring him once a week. That's his only form of interaction with any other people. This is most definitely not what I liked most about the trip but it is what has stuck out in my memory most from the trip. Its personal stories like this that will always stick in my mind and make it a worthwhile experience for me.

What did you like least about your trip?

There is not a lot that I can say I liked least about my experience, other than a breakdown in communication between Platform 2 and advance Africa from time to time. The main thing that I



found difficult to cope with was readjusting into western society when returning. After everything I have witnessed at first hand in the developing society, I have come to realise how, we in the western world, take everything for granted and appreciate little of what we have got.

Do you feel volunteering has changed your view of life in any way?

Absolutely, 100%. Before I went away I never really did any volunteering at all, I always thought that there were other people out there who could do it. But I have now learnt that it is everyone's responsibility to get involved in some way. Even career wise I have realised I would like to incorporate volunteering and the developing world into my engineering course.

Would you like to volunteer again?

Yes I recently registered with VSB to get involved in some work so I would like to do a few hours a week with Oxfam in their bookshop. I am also attending the Copenhagen campaign from 10th – 14th December in order to create awareness for climate change and to encourage the UN to get involved in making a difference. My brother and I have also decided to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (highest mountain in Africa) in June 2010. In order to do that we both need to raise £5000 each.

Would you recommend volunteering to your peers?

Yes I have been telling everyone about my experience and I have written a few articles for some local newspapers to try and get people involved. It's only ten weeks out of your life and it will change your life dramatically without a shadow of a doubt.



Government calls British youngsters to experience life in a developing country for 10 weeks



The Government are giving British youngsters the chance to broaden their horizons by spending 10 weeks volunteering in a developing country – completely free of charge.

Aimed at young people from less advantaged backgrounds who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford a 'gap year' trip, Platform2 is a global development scheme created for those under-25s who will be particularly struggling to find work in the current economic climate.

The £10 million three-year scheme, funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development, has places for 2,500 young people aged 18-25 to experience development work in countries including South Africa, Ghana, Peru, India and Kenya. Youngsters accepted onto the scheme will spend 10 weeks immersed in the culture of a developing country, living and working in the local communities. Projects include working at an orphanage in Johannesburg, teaching at a school in India and building a school in Peru.

Recent returnee from Torquay, Sarah Owen,

says of her experience teaching young girls in India: 'Working with young women in the foothills of the Himalayas is an experience I will never forget. Although our lives were so different, we formed strong bonds over the ten weeks and by the time we left we had changed each other's lives forever. Since coming back to Devon I have been teaching Indian songs to the local people in my community and sharing stories with my friends and family here. It is a chance of a lifetime that anyone should go for if they can.'

Mike Foster, Minister for International Development said: 'The global recession has hit young people hard, and it is vitally important that we offer them opportunities such as Platform2. The programme benefits the everyday lives of people in developing countries through practical solutions such as building toilets and schools. It also benefits the UK through the young people gaining skills, and unlocking the potential within them to contribute positively to their communities.'

For more information on Platform2, or to apply, visit www.myplatform2.com

Additional Information.

1. Platform2 empowers 18-25 year olds in the UK to make a real difference to the lives of those in poor countries, through volunteering abroad and raising awareness of development issues back home. It benefits the individual taking part as it gives these young volunteers the opportunity to use their skills, talents and creativity in the host nation and highlight development issues on their return.
2. Volunteers will spend 10 weeks in developing countries such as Ghana, South Africa and Peru at no financial cost to them, as this scheme is funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development.
3. Platform2 is a global volunteering experience funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development and run by Christian Aid and BUNAC.
4. Find out more about Platform2 at www.myplatform2.com
5. Figures from the National Office of Statistics in June 2009



CLIC Sargent



clic provides help to young people with cancer and their families. here's how...

The charities CLIC and Sargent Cancer Care for Children merged in 2005 to become CLIC Sargent. CLIC Sargent provides help to young people with cancer and their families.

The services in Northern Ireland include:

Social Workers

The social workers help the young people and their families at home and in hospital. There are 2 Social workers and a clinical psychologist based in Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and 1 Social Worker in Belfast City Hospital.

Youth Service.

There is 1 youth development worker involved with the charity. Cancer can leave teenagers, in particular, feeling isolated and different from their families. CLIC Sargent Youth Workers offer ways to help them deal with their illness.

This service also includes mentoring young people and also assisting them with practical support in hospital. They also have the youth forum which enables the young people to meet up every so often to discuss issues.

Malcolm Sargent House

They also provide help with families who do not live in the Belfast area to stay near to the haematology unit at the Royal Hospital.

Grants

These grants are distributed when needed and are used in many different ways. They help families with tasks such as paying bills or rent when there is little or no money coming in.

Community Play Specialist programme

The service helps the child to understand what is going to happen when they have different treatments. They are based in the paediatric oncology wards. There is one Community Play Specialist involved in the organization. CLIC Sargent Play Specialists provide emotional and developmental support in the home, helping children cope with their treatment.

Child Cancer Helpline

CLIC Sargent also provides a child cancer helpline which has people who provide advice for help with receiving benefits. It also helps with any queries anyone has.

National charity- local delivery

CLIC Sargent, the UK'S leading children's cancer is a national charity committed to providing care, every step of the way, to children and young people diagnosed with cancer or leukaemia and their families. We achieve this by the local delivery of essential services throughout the UK.

A lifeline for children with cancer

Every 48 minutes a child in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer or leukemia.

CLIC Sargent Northern Ireland provides specialist medical, psychological and financial support for children and young people with cancer.



Volunteering with CLIC Sargent Northern Ireland

Kick for Children is a fun football fundraising campaign aimed at schools, youth clubs, football teams and is for all ages and abilities.

To find out more about Kick for Children with Cancer log onto www.clicsargent.org.uk/football

All year round

Collection agents are needed in areas where the cans are placed. The businesses would phone the office and ask for the can to be collected. The volunteer would then come and take it away and replace the can. This is very important because it helps the organisation and saves them time and resources having to come and collect it.

For more information contact:

02890 725780

Or email careni@clicsargent.org.uk

SOS Bus in Belfast

if it all goes pete tong on a night
out - drank too much, lost your
friends, can't get home...
the SOS bus is here to help



The SOS Bus is a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status.

The project originates from a similar project in Norwich which has approx 50% of the population of Belfast (2001 census) www.sosbus.co.uk where over the past 8yrs some 5500 people have benefited from this service. Today this project is listed as best practice on the Home Office website for supporting people during the night time economy period. NIO CSU Director Conal Devitt along with senior NIAS staff visited the Norwich SOS Bus to see for themselves the impact it was having there. Over a 2 year period, in consultation with both the public

and private sector, a case was made for an SOS Bus to be established in Belfast. The award winning Belfast SOS Bus was launched on 27th November 2007 and has been visited by some 8 councils and or police officials from different towns and cities throughout the UK, several of which have established their own SOS Bus project.

The bus itself is a 60ft 'bendy bus' and is equipped with a fully functioning medical centre that is crewed by Pro Paramedics Ltd medical team. The bus also has state of the art audio visual equipment including a 50in plasma screen television complete with a video games console and IT access.



Since November 2007 the bus has been used in Belfast City Centre as a means of support for people who have become distressed or vulnerable through over indulgence of either alcohol or drugs or who feel threatened or isolated after becoming separated from their friends. Their dedicated teams of volunteers reach out to those in need and bring them to the bus where they receive tea and biscuits, medical attention if required and safe transportation home. They also have a pub/club network in place whereby we have a response vehicle to respond to calls for help. The project has been a huge success and has drawn praise from the PSNI, local politicians and the media.

It is only through the generosity and dedication of people who volunteer and support them that SOS Bus can continue to provide these valuable services to the people of Belfast.

The SOS Bus organisation have volunteering opportunities for their night-time work helping people in need. They have opportunities for this with you presently. Volunteers would come out from 11.30pm-3.00pm once a month on average on either a Friday or Saturday night. Full training given.

Visit their website www.sosbusni.com or call 028 90 664505 for more info.

wheelworks can work for you!



'WheelWorks Film & Visual Art Project in progress with St Gerard's Educational Resource Centre, west Belfast'



WHEELWORKS

WheelWorks is a youth arts organisation working with children and young people aged 4 – 25 who may not otherwise have access to high quality artistic activity. We work in partnership with all types of communities throughout Northern Ireland to provide taster workshops and issue based programmes which help young people learn new skills and express themselves through traditional and digital art.

WheelWorks has been very busy of late, consolidating and developing our programmes. Read on and see what we could do for you!

Recent highlights include:

The Multiple Realities Programme: a fundamental part of WheelWorks and now in its seventh year of work with young people including those from minority ethnic communities, young disabled people and young people of different sexual orientation. WheelWorks is delighted to have secured funding from the Baring Foundation which will help develop partnerships such as the

collaboration with young people from NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS), who created a music CD which was showcased at the Test! Multimedia festival in Croatia in April 2009.

Recent Multiple Realities projects include a community relations film with Voice of Young People in Care, a film by St Gerard's Educational Resource Centre in west Belfast which was selected for screening at the Cinemagic Film Festival and a photography & music project with Concorde Community Centre and Belfast Exposed. If you would like more information on Multiple Realities please contact us: lucy@wheelworks.org.uk

The ArtCart: WheelWorks' unique mobile arts vehicle which delivers arts based projects to young people directly in their own communities. The ArtCart is an amazing purpose built vehicle featuring a photographic darkroom/ sound recording studio, digital music and photography computer workstations with all the latest software and stage facilities. The ArtCart delivers both

WheelWorks projects and taster workshops and has been out and about all over Northern Ireland this year from Armagh to Antrim taking part in fun days and festivals as well as programme launches, outreach and detached youth work. This year we have been working with our award winning artists on developing the ArtCart programme to include digital animation, web design and gaming.

If you are interested in having the

WheelWorks ArtCart in your community or at your event or if you have a project idea please get in touch: sheelagh@wheelworks.org.uk. Check out art work created by young people on WheelWorks programmes on our website: www.wheelworks.org.uk

WheelWorks' core funders are the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Youth Council for Northern Ireland, the Baring Foundation and Belfast City Council.

volunteering opportunities

Have you considered volunteering?

Have you considered volunteering?

- Are you unemployed
- Taking a gap year
- Just finished University
- Want to gain experience

Then check out some of our current volunteering opportunities....

If interested contact VSB on 028 90 200 850 or email info@vsb.org.uk also check out www.volunteernow.co.uk for a wider range of opportunities!!!!

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (Belfast based)

Youth Group Leader - Amnesty International are looking for a youth leader to work with and lead their Belfast Youth Group. This youth group seeks to campaign on issues identified by Amnesty International. Rarely does such a great opportunity come along to do an internship with an organisation with a worldwide reputation. If you are interested in increasing your prospect of employment by obtaining practical 'hands on' experience in the field of youth work then this is the opportunity for you.

CHILDLINE NI

Volunteer Counsellors - Free at the weekend? Spend your free weekends helping to change children's lives. Be a volunteer counsellor with ChildLine and advise and protect children in distress or danger, on the phone and online. No previous counselling experience is necessary and full training and support is given. To find out when the next Volunteer Information Meeting is being held in Belfast please ring 0870 336 2945.

THE LYRIC THEATRE (South Belfast)

Theatre Usher - Interested in theatre? Then come and join the team at Northern Ireland's only full time producing theatre. We need dedicated and reliable people to act as ushers during our residence at the Elmwood Hall, Belfast and to deliver a high standard of customer service to each of our customers.

INCLUDE YOUTH (East Belfast)

Volunteer Mentors - required to offer a social and recreational service to young people aged between 16-21 years old who are on the Give & Take Scheme. Talk to young people about their goals for the future; encourage the young person to enhance their personal and social development skills; help young people progress to training or employment or return to education.



PLATFORM 2

Overseas Volunteers - We send 18 - 25 year olds to Peru, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, India or Nepal for 10 weeks to volunteer in a wide range of projects (anything from teaching children English, to arts projects, to building a community centre!!!!) ... oh yeah and they are FULLY FUNDED! 2010 departure dates:

For departures in w/c 24 May
- deadline of 25 January

For departures in w/c 2 August
- deadline of 5 April

For departures in w/c 11 October
- deadline of 14 June

ANDERSONSTOWN TRADITIONAL & CONTEMPORARY SCHOOL OF MUSIC (Belfast)

Music Tutors - Do you have a passion for music and would be interested in joining our team of volunteer tutors. If you think you have the skills to teach this is an excellent opportunity to gain experience with an established music school and to build your own skills. Classes take place throughout Belfast - 2 hrs/week

ST JOHN AMBULANCE

(Training held in East Belfast)

First Aid / Ambulance Crew - Volunteers will be provided with all training starting at First Aid level and if they wish progress to cycle responder, Patient transport attendant and Emergency transport attendant crewing our ambulance fleet at many different events from sporting to concerts, transporting patients from hospital to hospital, etc. (Training held Tuesday evenings 8-10pm)

ROSARIO YOUTH CLUB

(South Belfast)

Youth Worker - The club is open to everyone (5-25) of all cultures, week nights and Saturday mornings. Volunteers required to help organise and assist with activities during each session. 2hrs/week



and with support from the Pilgrim Trust

Voluntary Service Bureau exists to support, encourage and promote citizenship and participation through voluntary activity. Young Citizens In Action is a Voluntary Service Bureau initiative supported by:

The Pilgrim Trust and the Youth Council for Northern Ireland



young citizens in action
involving young people in the community
through volunteering