



Volunteer Centres
Hertfordshire

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EMPLOYER SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING



www.volunteeringherts.org

Valuing Volunteers in Hertfordshire

Employer Supported Volunteering - ESV

When Employer Supported Volunteering is promoted, encouraged and recognised by employers, everybody wins!

Companies, employees and the local community benefit.

More and more companies are realising the importance of being active in the community in which they operate.

Employer supported volunteering is a key element of corporate social responsibility and makes sound business sense.

What's in it for businesses?

- The company image and reputation is enhanced with customers and employees
- Employees' skills are developed
- Employees' morale and motivation are increased
- Team working within and across departments is improved
- High calibre employees are attracted and retained
- A commitment to developing strong and healthy communities is demonstrated
- Networks are created with customers and partners



10 Top Tips for businesses in Employer Supported Volunteering

- Think about the reasons why your company would like to get involved
- Evaluate the skills your staff have to offer - as individuals or as teams
- Ask your staff if they already volunteer. Find a volunteering champion?
- Decide on budgets and time off - it's important to be realistic
- Write a very brief volunteering policy. Everyone needs to know the deal
- Find out what the local community needs - contact a Volunteer Centre
- Choose your charity partners
- Promote your programme
- Evaluate and learn from the experience
- Enjoy it. Volunteering can be great fun!



What's in it for employees?



- Meeting new people
- Gaining new skills and improving career prospects
- Cementing relationships with colleagues
- Making a difference
- Exploring new situations and challenges
- Using skills in a different environment
- Gaining a sense of achievement
- Learning about the community in which you work

What's in it for communities?



Support from businesses benefits local voluntary and community groups:-

- volunteers with valuable new skills can bring about a step change in the activities of local groups
- long term relationships are built - team challenges can lead to individual involvement, or other forms of support
- awareness of community activities is raised
- important partnerships are built between the private, public and third sectors, reducing barriers between different sections of society



Getting started - brokerage services

Volunteer Centres can offer:-

- knowledge of local organisations and their need for volunteers
- details of voluntary opportunities for individuals and teams
- brokerage service - matching interests, skills and time to voluntary tasks
- 1:1 chats with individuals to find their ideal voluntary opportunities
- local newspaper publicity for team builds
- presentations at staff meetings and pre-retirement courses
- publicity materials
- Volunteer Speed Matching events at business venues. Offering information on local organisations in a fun event based on speed dating! (see www.volunteerdacorum.org)

Team Building Challenges usually involve basic gardening, painting, DIY skills or fundraising and last for a day.

Volunteer Centres can save businesses research time by identifying local projects that really need doing. This is a cost effective alternative to other team building options. Centres request a donation to cover administration costs. As a guide, a minimum of £100 to cover a basic "handshake" with an appropriate charity. Volunteer Centres are local independent charities themselves and need support to maintain this service.

Although team building events are very popular, the greater need is often for individuals to offer their help on a one-off or ongoing basis. e.g. as trustees, school governors, business mentors, or web designers to name a few. See www.do-it.org.uk for ideas - volunteers can even register online.

Volunteer Centres in Hertfordshire have worked with:-

Wickes, DSGi plc, Kodak, BT, William Sutton Trust, Holiday Inn, HSBC, Northgate Information Systems, Cadbury Schweppes, Blue Touch Technologies Ltd, Travis Perkins, John Lewis, Camelot, Dacorum Borough Council, Ford Finance, Tesco, Sainsbury's

Useful links

Volunteer Centres Hertfordshire	www.volunteeringherts.org
Volunteering England	www.volunteering.org.uk
National Volunteering database	www.do-it.org.uk 
Championing CSR in Herts	www.csrherts.org.uk
Connect Dacorum	www.connectdacorum.org.uk
Bridging Community & Business (Stevenage)	www.sct.uk.net
Herts CVS	www.hertscvs.org.uk



Volunteer Centres
Hertfordshire

Broxbourne & East Herts	01992 638633
Dacorum	01442 247209
Hertsmere	020 8207 4504
North Herts	01462 689400
Royston	01763 243020
St Albans	01727 852657
Stevenage	01438 725400
Three Rivers	01923 711174
Watford	01923 248304
Welwyn Hatfield (VB)	01707 274861

(VB = Volunteer Bureau)



INVESTING in
COMMUNITIES
Hertfordshire

Championing
CSR in Hertfordshire



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