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November 2009



You've been eagerly waiting all month and here it is: the November 2009 edition of re@d-it! the newsletter from Do-it.

In this edition we give you a great example of an [Olympics inspired volunteering opportunity](#) and a gentle reminder to update your V-Base by 30 November so that you can take full advantage of our [Inspiration and Legacy from the 2012 Games project](#). We alert you to fact we'll be making a special guest appearance at the [Volunteer Centre Roadshows](#) and we have all the usual items, so sit back and enjoy the re@d (-it!).

Please feel free to share this newsletter with other members of your team, especially those who use V-Base or V-Base Recruiter.

“ Olympics inspired opportunity of the month

For the next few months we'll be featuring an Olympics inspired opportunity of the month. This will be an opportunity that fits in perfectly with our [definitions](#) and may help you create your own opportunities.

This month the [opportunity](#) is being offered by Young Enterprise London. They are looking for volunteers to help run workshops with young people, looking at the economic impact of the 2012 Games.



What the Partnerships Team has been up to this month

This month, we've donned our Halloween masks, warmed our gloved fingers at roasting bonfires, and been incredibly busy promoting and improving Do-it.

Several members of the team have put in some serious hours with Tracey from our V-Base Development Team going through and prioritising all the new functionality requests we have received from V-Base users.

Jenni led a training session for our Youth Online Proofreaders, please see the photo below. They are the lovely volunteers that check your opportunities and give suggestions on how to make them 'youth friendly'. If you would like your opportunities proofread please contact [Jenni](#).

Dave attended the Sports Network Group's November meeting at Portcullis House to explain the Inspiration and Legacy from the 2012 Games project. We are hoping that many of the large networks that attended will go on to create some fantastic new opportunities.

Rosie and Fiona also enjoyed a soir e with the Department of Health to discuss their upcoming Volunteering Strategy and the current Do-it in Your Local Hospital project, which aims to increase the number of health and social care opportunities on the National Volunteering Database.



Olympics inspired tagging

Our deadline of 30 November to update your V-Base is approaching fast and we don't want you to be left behind! Please visit our [Do-it Product Support](#) website for all the information V-Base users to update your software and allow you to tag your opportunities as 'Olympics inspired'. Please don't forget to [contact us](#) before the deadline to tell us that you have downloaded the update or you will be struck off our Christmas card list and also face the possibility of your account being frozen.

Honda Syndication feed

Back in the golden days of the summer we told you that Honda had launched a 12 week campaign to promote environmental volunteering opportunities from Do-it. This was due to finish at the end of October, but we are delighted to announce it will continue in the London Evening Standard for four more weeks from 16 November. This means you may continue to receive an increase in Do-it applications or expressions of interest during this time.

Self-harm breakfast seminar

For those of you who are interested in learning how to support young people affected by self-harm, there are still places available at YouthNet's self-harm breakfast seminar, which will take place on December 1, 2009.

Voluntary organisations 42nd Street, Depaul UK and YouthNet are holding this seminar to share their experiences of working together to provide [online support service](#) on [TheSite.org](#). Insights from research undertaken with young people and professionals will also be highlighted and discussed. The event will provide you with the opportunity to explore key issues of concern for young people and discuss ways to support those who display self-harming behaviour – as well as a free breakfast! You can't ask for much more than that.

It's taking place in YouthNet's offices in London from 8.30 to 10.00am. To register for the event or to find out more details please contact [Vicky Chant](#).

Library of Best Practice

Are you a Volunteer Centre that works with a local **v**involved team or **v** funded project? Are you a **v**involved team or **v** funded project working closely with your local Volunteer Centre to recruit volunteers?

Yes? Then we need you!

We are currently putting together a Library of Best Practice and would like to hear from you. What works well? What doesn't work well? What have you learned? We already have a [great collection](#) of resources but we want more. Please contact [Jenni](#) if you want to get involved.

Online consultation panel

We are always keen to hear what our partners are feeling about Do-it, V-Base, V-Base Recruiter and Syndication. That's why we're launching an online consultation panel. We are looking for organisations that aren't afraid to say what they think about a whole host of issues relating to Do-it. If you'd like to get involved then please [contact us](#).

Volunteer Centre Roadshows

If you are a Volunteer Centre you should have heard from [Volunteering England](#) about a series of [Volunteer Centre Roadshows](#) happening over the next two months. We've been lucky enough to be invited along to showcase the latest version of V-Base 3.0. This will be a great chance for you to have a chat with a member of the Do-it Partnerships or Technical team and have a nosey around V-Base 3.0 over lunch. So come along, armed with your questions, and we'll look forward to seeing you.

Help the Hospices Conference

We're also attending the [Help the Hospices Conference](#) in Harrogate from November 24 to 26. The conference will feature speakers from all over Europe, seminars and lectures. If you have any hospice partners, it'd be great if you could encourage them to attend, seek us out and learn more about the National Volunteering Database.

New Access to Volunteering Fund

New grants helping organisations to enable more disabled people to volunteer are available from November 16.

Organisations can apply for grants between £250 and £5,000, which can be used to help overcome barriers that stop disabled people volunteering, such as a lack of specific equipment, suitable access and/or understanding of disability issues.

These grants are part of the £2 million [Access to Volunteering Fund](#), which was developed by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office as a pilot scheme in Greater London, the West Midlands and the North West.

Dear Dave

If you have a burning question about anything Do-it related, such as V-Base, V-Base Recruiter or Syndication, and you think Dave might be able to answer it, please do [send it in](#). This month we had a concerned Lisa contacting us.

Dear Dave,

It appears that my V-Base database has recently been corrupted and the compact and repair function is not working. Do you have any ideas for what I could do? I should also say that my computer is accessing V-Base through a wireless network.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Eldridge, Solent Youth Action

Dear Lisa

It sounds like you're in quite a pickle! In answer to your question I would say that it's best not to use a wireless network to access the V-Base database, this can lead to all sorts of trouble, which may have affected your compact and repair function. Often the stability of the connection to a wireless network is lower than a wired network, due to factors such as the weather, and this can cause all sorts of problems. I would therefore recommend you switch to a wired network. If you then do a [compact and repair](#), your database should be as good as new.

Thanks!

Dave

A big welcome to seven new partners!

This month we're welcoming seven new organisations into the fold:

- [Independent Age](#)
- [Asthma UK](#)
- [The National Benevolent Fund for the Aged](#)
- [Games for Life](#)
- [ITV Fixers](#)
- [Waterways Action Squad](#)
- [Access and Community Engagement – University of Leeds](#)

We look forward to working in partnership with these organisations and promoting their opportunities on Do-it.

Upcoming training events

[V-Base training: 17 December 2009 and 22 January 2010](#)

[V-Base Recruiter training: 26 January 2010](#)

Writing Good Copy training: 15 December 2009

Do you get writer's block when it comes to writing exciting opportunities? You need the 'Writing Good Copy' training! This is a **free** training session designed to help you write inspiring opportunities in an imaginative way. This training is aimed at helping you recruit more 16 to 25 year-old volunteers, but would be useful to all volunteer-involving organisations, whatever your target demographic. This training is being run for a limited period and is booking up fast so reserve your place now. For further information, or to book onto the session, please contact [Jenni](#).

V-Base Refresher training: 4 December 2009

Mail merge in a muddle? Reporting feel ridiculous? Activity Log atrocious? Then you need V-Base refresher training! This **free** training course is designed for individuals who have already attended V-Base training. It has limited places and is running for a limited time, so book now to avoid disappointment. For further information, or to book onto the session, please contact [Jenni](#).

Location

All training sessions take place in YouthNet's office: First floor, 50 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8RT.

And finally...

If you ever have any questions or feedback about anything you've read in re@d-it! or seen on the website then please do [contact us](#).

Partnerships Team

