



## Hi there

Grab a coffee, unplug the telephone and turn off your email as the July 2009 edition of re@d-it!, the monthly newsletter from do-it.org.uk, is here!

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- A big welcome to four new partners!
- And finally...

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

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## Olympics Inspiration and Legacy Programme

You may have heard that YouthNet and Volunteering England, supported by the Office of the Third Sector and Government Olympic Executive, are working together on a new project to support volunteering inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and to strengthen the volunteering legacy.

The project will improve the infrastructure to ensure that people inspired by the Olympics and Paralympics can readily find volunteering opportunities. There will be new ways to find opportunities through the electronic infrastructure, as well as increased numbers of opportunities on the existing database. Volunteering England will be working with organisations (primarily in the areas of sports, culture and the environment) to promote new volunteering opportunities throughout the UK and build a volunteering legacy through the Games.

250,000 people have already signed up with LOCOG to express their interest in volunteering at the London 2012 Games, however only around 70,000 volunteers are needed for delivering the Games. We don't want to lose that enthusiasm. We want to ensure everyone who wants to volunteer can find a suitable opportunity among all the other kinds of volunteering which are being inspired by the Games.

We know there are going to be lots of new opportunities created that have been inspired by the Olympics and Paralympics. So we're going to be adding a new value into the 'Additional/Specific suitability' field within V-Base 2.5 and V-Base recruiter. This allows opportunities to be tagged if they have been inspired by the Olympic Games. You'll also be able to quickly and easily identify opportunities that have been inspired by London 2012. This will be a broader category than the 'Inspired by...' branding which LOCOG can authorise.

Over the next couple of weeks we'll be sending you information on how we will categorise an opportunity as being inspired by the Olympics and Paralympics along with details on how to update your copy of V-Base. In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

This is just one of the aspirations that YouthNet and Volunteering England have around the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. The games represent the opportunity of a generation in terms of ensuring that volunteering becomes part of the DNA of society in the UK. We will continue to keep you informed as our plans develop in the meantime; this is our first foray into supporting the games.

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## Syndication partners

Partner's Homepage

Products & Services

V-Base

V-Base Recruiter

Syndication

How do-it works

Posting opportunities

Information and resources

Comments

Training feedback: *"Excellent overview of the topic without information overload."*

Sandra Nicotera, Bury St Edmonds Volunteer Centre.

Suggestion

Do you have any feedback or suggestions for us about re@d-it!

If you do, please contact us here.

You may notice a slight increase in the numbers of volunteering applications you receive from July – October. This is because YouthNet and Honda will be undertaking a 12-week campaign to promote volunteering starting on July 27th. Honda are launching a new environmentally friendly car (Honda Insight) and as part of their launch, they're promoting the concept of getting active in your community. YouthNet will be syndicating opportunities from the National Volunteering Database to the 160 regional newspaper sites promoting the Honda Insight campaign.

YouthNet is also part of a consortium called Plings. The consortium has been looking at positive activities for young people as part of the Aiming High agenda. The result is a database of positive activities across 20 local authorities. As volunteering is a positive activity it's a key part of the project so we'll be syndicating opportunities from do-it.org.uk to the new website.

The 20 local authorities publicising their positive activities to young people are:

Lewisham, Islington, Birmingham, Walsall, Coventry, Blackpool, Bolton, Halton, Knowsley, Salford, Nottingham, Doncaster, Hull, Wakefield, Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, South Tyneside, Leicester, Blackburn.

This is very much a pilot project so we'll keep you posted on how it's working.

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## Satisfaction surveys

At the start of the year we spoke to a lot of our partners and people who've searched for volunteering opportunities on do-it.org.uk. We asked them all sorts of questions about the website, their volunteering experiences and how it could all be improved. We found out a lot of interesting information. For example did you know that only 55% of people out there find the opportunity descriptions inspiring? Or that 85% of those who were contacted after applying for an opportunity found the response they received was helpful? We are also proud to tell you that 97% of you who had contact with us at YouthNet reported that it was either helpful or very helpful!

For many more findings and figures like these, take a look at the full reports of the Volunteer Satisfaction Survey and the Partner Satisfaction Survey on the do-it.org.uk website.

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## Dave's dos and don'ts

*"When someone reads from a screen it is harder than reading on paper. Research shows that most users scan pages, so opportunities that are concise and that flow logically are much more likely to be read."*

Want more? Check out our top tips for writing opportunities.

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## The Do-it Product Support website

It's live! After a cracking effort from the Support Team we are very proud to launch the Do-it Product Support website!

This website has been designed for everyone who uses V-Base, V-Base Recruiter or our syndication service. On this website you will not only be able to find information about our products, but find information about training, search through our solutions archive and V-Base and V-Base recruiter users will be able to log their own support cases. This website aims to help you find answers to all your technical and non-technical queries 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But that's not all. The website functions alongside our regular telephone based technical support which remains available from 9:30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. They can be contacted on 0845 4500 220.

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## Partnerships Twitter Account

Are you sitting there thinking, "I wish I knew what was going down in the Partnerships Team today?" Then you'll be delighted to hear that we have launched a Partnerships Team Twitter account. We will be doing regular updates on a whole range of topics so please do follow us.

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## Young Achievers Awards

The Young Achievers Trust, supported by do-it.org.uk and YouthNet, wants you to help find England's star achiever for 2009. Nominations have been opened for the awards and the deadline is September 27th. If you work with volunteers (or know of any) aged 16 to 25 who have made a significant impact over the last year, then please nominate them.

Every year, Young Achievers aims to recognise 56 young people in the fields of community, arts, environment and sport, offering cash prizes, project support and a celebration day to winners and shortlisted candidates.

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## forum3

forum3 , the UK's biggest third-sector recruitment fair, is happening later this year, so you might want to get your diaries out now. The annual event will be held on September 10 and 11 at the Business Design Centre in Islington. As well as a chance to recruit new staff, volunteers and board members, forum3 is also a great way to raise the profile of your organisation and attract potential donors, funders and partners. Exhibitors include Save the Children, RSPCA, British Heart Foundation, World Vision, VSO, and once again - Greater London Volunteering and do-it.org.uk.

For more details go to contact Zoë Buswell.

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## Upcoming training events

V-Base training: 24 August 2009

Information about V-Base training and the dates of future sessions are now available on do-it.org.uk. If you are interested in attending the training sessions, please submit a V-Base training booking form.

V-Base Recruiter training: 18 August 2009

Information about V Base Recruiter training and dates of future sessions are also available on do-it.org.uk. If you would like to attend a session or wish to register your interest for future sessions, please submit a V-Base Recruiter training application form.

Writing Good Copy training: 4 August and 2 September 2009

Are you experiencing writer's block when it comes to writing exciting opportunities? You need 'Writing Good Copy' training! This is a free training course designed to help you write inspiring opportunities in an imaginative way. This training is aimed at helping you recruit more young volunteers (16 – 25 year olds), but would be useful to all partners who are recruiting whatever their target demographic. For further information or to book onto the session please contact Jenni.

V-Base Refresher Training: 29 July 2009

Mail merge in a muddle? Reporting feels 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 and has limited spaces, 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.

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## A big welcome to four new partners!

They've seen the light and this month we're welcoming four new organisations into the fold:

Groundwork Black Country

Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council

Stop the Traffik

Suffolk Volunteering Federation

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

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## And finally...

If you ever have any questions or points that you would like to raise about what you've either read in re@d-it! or seen on the website then please do contact us.

Until next time,

The Partnerships Team

[www.youthnet.org](http://www.youthnet.org)

[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)



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