



Voluntary Action

Vale Royal

News January 2010 Happy New Year!!



What do you Believe in is a new campaign by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

This campaign is to help organisations like yours but we need your help to spread the message about the importance of giving to charity to the widest possible audience.

You can help by:

- Registering with websites such as www.thebiggive.org.uk or www.cafonline.org so donors can find you online and make donations direct to your organisation.
- Using the **‘What Do You Believe In?’** question and logo in your own work to drive the campaign in your local community. Feel free to use it in your own materials/campaigns to challenge people to think about what they care about and act on it. You can also add the **‘What Do You Believe In?’** logo to your own materials.
- Contacting your MP, local councillors or celebrity patrons for support or endorsements. Support from prominent personalities can help raise awareness of your campaign both through the media and directly with the public. Try contacting your MP, local councillors or celebrity patrons of your organisation to see if they will back your role in the **‘What Do You Believe In?’** campaign. You could ask them for an endorsing quote setting out what they believe in and what they are doing about it. It could be general. Eg. “I believe in the great work done by charities, which is why I’m backing this campaign and am calling on the public to take part.”
- Joining the debate by stating what you believe in and what you are doing about it via social media such as blogs, Twitter and the campaigning website Louder to raise awareness of the importance of giving to charity.

More info Nzinga Cotton National Council for Voluntary Organisations. NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL. Tel: 020 7713 6161.



Know how is a new website, a free information resource and online community, funded by the lottery, built to support third sector organizations in their work.

- The site covers every aspect of running a non profit organization

- Its content is practical and includes links to other sources of information and help

Well worth a look

<http://www.knowhownonprofit.org>



Environmental Issues

Carbon Conversations

The North West Climate Fund (Foundation) hopes to set up "Carbon Conversations", and would like to hear from interested groups who'd like to participate - please see the document at

<http://www.vren.btik.com/documents/1518680948.ikml>

Climate Action Group Toolkit

There's a newly published COIN Climate Action Group toolkit which provides all the information you need to set up and support Climate Action Groups in your local area. Climate Action Groups are groups of people who come together to take decisive action on a climate change issue of their choice over a six-month period. See

<http://www.coinet.org.uk/news/2009-12-01/diy-guide-climate-action-groups>

After Copenhagen:

A Greenpeace request re-Copenhagen summit, especially for Twitter and Facebook users:

<http://links.mkt1875.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MzQ1MDMzNjkS1&r=MzYzNzA2OTE3OAS2&j=Njl3MTI1OTgS1&mt=1&rt=0>

President Evo Morales Ayma of Bolivia proposed a global popular referendum that would tackle what he considers the root causes of climate change. See <http://portalmre.rree.gov.bo/cumbre/Referendum.aspx>

Funding News

Funding Central is a free smart website for the whole voluntary and community sector, including social enterprise, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs.



Phase one of Funding Central was launched on 17 June 2009 with further enhancements and additional tools and resources being released in September 2009. This is a growing resource and we welcome any feedback that you might have to help us improve our service.

Funding Central is managed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in partnership with j4b Software and Publishing and is funded by the Office of the Third Sector. It covers national funding and finance opportunities for voluntary and community organisations operating in England from European, national, regional and local government and charitable sources.

<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk>

Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation

The foundation provides grant funding of between £5,000 and £15,000 per year in support of projects that seek to: influence values and attitudes; promote equity and social justice; and develop radical alternatives to current economic and social structures. The first 2010 deadline for applications is 12 March. www.polden-puckham.org.uk

Biffaward Small Grants Scheme

The scheme offers grants of between £250 and £5,000 to support improvements and/or access to local amenities such as community buildings, nature reserves, cycle paths, playgrounds, cultural facilities or outdoor spaces. The project must not cost more than £10,000 in total and must be within 10 miles of a Biffa operation, and within 10 miles of a landfill site (owned by any company). www.biffaward.org

Mediabox

Mediabox offers disadvantaged 13 to 19 year olds the opportunity to develop and produce creative media projects using film, television, print, radio, games, interactive or online platforms. A key aim of Mediabox is to improve the portrayal of young people in the media, and to enable young people to express their own opinions and gain new skills. www.media-box.co.uk/funding

J Paul Getty Junior Charitable Trust Re-opens for Applications

Following a review and revision of its funding guidelines, the J Paul Getty Junior Charitable Trust has re-opened for grant applications and will make grants of up to £250,000 in the areas of social welfare as well as the arts and heritage. In particular, the trust is seeking to support projects:

- In the areas of reducing re-offending □
- Improving the prospects of young people, refugees and asylum seekers □
- Integrating different social and ethnic groups □
- Tackling substance misuse and homelessness; □
- Preserving heritage □
- Sustaining the arts.

The Trust will usually only support registered charities in England. Occasionally, the Trust will fund organisations of comparable charitable status, such as Industrial Provident Societies or Community Interest Companies, but only where there is a very strong connection with one or more of the Trust's current funding priorities. Applications can be made at any time. www.jpgettytrust.org.uk

Computers for Rural People Scheme (UK)

Individuals clubs and organisations, etc, in rural areas that need access to information and services, are able to purchase fully functioning ex-government computers for as little as £99. The computers are being made available through the Arthur Rank Centre. This is a collaborative unit supported by the National Churches, the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Rank Foundation. For organisations that need more than one computer; e.g. for a Drop-in centre, School etc. the prices are even lower. For further details : <http://tinyurl.com/38cpz4>

Grassroots Grants —Cheshire

Financial assistance is available to small voluntary and community groups to continue or expand their work with the local community in Cheshire. **Who can apply?** Small

voluntary and community organisations within the county of Cheshire that help address local needs. Applicant groups must be □ a not-for-profit, third sector voluntary or community group working in Cheshire □ have been active in their local community for not less than 12 months □ have an evidenced income of less than £30,000 per annum □ be volunteer led (i.e. with largely volunteer based input) □ be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community □ Have a governing document (e.g. Constitution, Statement of Aims and Objectives) □ Have their own bank account

What funding is available? Groups can apply for a one off grant of £5,000 or the equivalent spread over the three years of the scheme (until March 2011). The minimum grant is £250 and the maximum sum available to one organisation from the Grassroots Grants scheme is £5,000 over the life of the programme. **How to apply** Please download the application form and application guidelines from the Cheshire Community Action website: www.cheshireaction.org.uk/grassroots-grants.php For further information contact: Grassroots Grants Cheshire Community Action 96 Lower Bridge Street Chester CH1 1RU Phone: 01244 323602

Final Round of Community Grants

A reminder that the closing date for the 6th and final round of Community Grants is 28th February 2010. Any project seeking funding must be complete by end of November 2010. Application forms and guidance notes are available from admin@learning-together.co.uk If you wish to talk over any prospective applications please contact Simon Brown on 01244 320528 or by E-mail simon@learning-together.co.uk.

JOB VACANCY:

Support Work offered in Wincham by disabled woman, who is politically green, spiritually zen and into poker, gadgets, and wildlife gardening.

18.5hrs pw, incl housekeeping duties and 1 sleep-in, using private en-suite room with wi-fi. £6.4k pa.

Requirements: over 21, driver, meticulous, practical, flexible, easy going, like dogs and hens, ability to cope with an indecisive perfectionist! Gender and experience irrelevant. See www.wincham.plus.com

Training Events

January 2010

Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th Liberating Leadership (£99) Skild Birmingham 0114 278 6636

Thursday 14th Employer Supported

Volunteering (£99) Warrington Volunteer Centre 01925 637609

Thursday 21st Facilitation Skills (£49) Skild Manchester 0114 278 6636

Friday 22nd Food Hygiene (Accredited) (£45) Cheshire West & Cheshire Council Northwich 01606 45724

January 2010

Wednesday 27th Demonstrating your Organisation's Quality - Health/Social Care Orgs (£89) Acevo Manchester 0845 3458497

February 2010

Thursday 4th Develop a Strategic PR Plan (£90) Acevo Manchester 0845 3458497

Thursday 11th Introducing Performance for Support Providers (£35) CES Warrington 020 77135722

Thursday 18th Small Organisation Master Class (£35) Acevo Manchester 0845 3458497

Thursday 25th Monitoring and Evaluation - Supporting Groups (£35) CES Liverpool 020 77135722

Success Story

VAVR wins Pan European Bid



Voluntary Action Vale Royal (VAVR) has been successful in securing €20,000 Euros as part of a Grundvig Bid . This is a very exciting opportunity for VAVR and will promote the organisation on a European scale. The bid will span a two year cycle from 2009 to 2011.

VAVR was approached by Mr Kristian Madsen, from VUC Storstrøm in Denmark, who was introduced to VAVR's Adult and Community Learning (ACL) project by Cheshire West and



Chester Council's Lifelong Learning Department in 2008. He was particularly interested the way the ACL project embedded ICT in its literacy provision. As a result of the visit VAVR was invited to become a fifth European partner in an ICT bid.

The main aim of the bid is to create a competent learning and development partnership with six adult education training institutions including Romania, Sweden, Germany, Spain and Denmark. It will concentrate on developing and widening the organisations training methods with the use of ICT based training sessions.

The project will create an ICT website called FRONTER and will enable partners to share experience and best practice when using ICT as an integrated part of adult education and training.

Its objectives are to establish a lasting partnership between institutions in the European community who work to develop initiatives for adults specifically directed towards the use of ICT in education and training. It will broaden and strengthen the trainers' use of ICT as a tool in the everyday planning of training that meets the needs of their adult learners.

It will examine innovative teaching approaches to renew the motivation and inspiration for the target adult learners who require different forms of teaching and learning, including learners with varying disabilities.

The exchange experience will be conducted in the format of seminars, study visits including the use of electronic networks.

The first seminar took place on 26th & 27th November 2009 and was held in Barcelona for all partners. Two of VAVR's literacy tutors attended the seminar.

The bid will consist of two study visits to take place in May 2010 and December 2010. This will involve a three to four day stay at a partner institution.

Further information from Jacqui Ledward from VAVR acl@vavaleroval.org.uk

Tel 01606 723180

New model constitution launched for very small charities

A new, simplified constitution for very small charities has been launched by the Charity Commission in partnership with a number of umbrella bodies across the charity sector for charities with an income under £5,000.

Read more about the concise, practical framework..... Follow this link:
<http://tinyurl.com/yzo8woh>

Pre-budget report - new bank for the sector is welcomed

During his [Pre Budget Report](#) last week, Alistair Darling announced that £75m would be put aside to start a new [Social Investment Wholesale Bank](#). The bulk of this money would come from dormant bank accounts. The bank will supply funds to existing and emerging financial retailers (such as Charity Bank and Triodos), who would then provide finance packages to charities. [The bank](#) is needed because voluntary and community organisations often find it difficult to access capital through the mainstream commercial market.

Find out more at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/civil-society/new-bank-sector-welcomed.
