

# **Brent Youth Volunteers**

## **Annual Report 2008-2009**

Alperton Community School  
Stanley Avenue  
Wembley  
HA0 4JE

T: 0208 902 2038

[www.brentyouthvolunteers.org.uk](http://www.brentyouthvolunteers.org.uk)



## Message from the Chair - John Boyle

Brent Youth Volunteers have been working hard over the last year and have made some great achievements with the dedication and hard work from all the trustees, staff, volunteers and partners.



## **Our Objectives**

The objective of Brent Youth Volunteers is to promote youth volunteering in Brent, Harrow and Ealing. We are committed to developing volunteering which promotes youth leadership and aims at the status of active citizenship. Brent Youth Volunteers provides an entrepreneurial approach and we believe that the creation of cultural capital is a very powerful tool in creating community cohesion. We have been running projects from Alperton School for the last ten years.

We achieve this by:

- Delivering a wide range of training and volunteering opportunities to young people
- Working in partnership with organisations and statutory bodies within Brent
- Supporting young people in youth led projects
- Promoting the benefits of youth volunteering to young people and the community

## **The Board of Trustees**

Chair - John Boyle Alperton Community School

Vice Chair - Melva Revri

Treasurer – Chandulal Malde



## Introduction

Brent Youth Volunteers has been running volunteering activities since 2000 where we began as Brent Millennium Volunteers (*Brent MV*). Since then we have worked with thousands of youth volunteers within Brent, Ealing and Harrow and have fostered strong partnerships both in the local community, across London and nationwide. In 2003 we became Brent Youth Volunteers and have continued the work of Brent MV in working with young people and promoting youth volunteering throughout Brent.

## Projects in 2008-2009

Our projects work within six key areas which are: *Healthy Lifestyles, Environment/Regeneration, Performing and Creative Arts, Young People's Voice, Education and Enterprise and Community Projects*. In the past year our volunteers have:

- Taken part in cooking projects that teach younger students about healthy eating and have facilitated workshops on mental health to their peers.
- Improved their local area through our sister project The Friends of Brent River Park that runs regeneration days in a local park and gets young people involved in improving their local parks and open spaces.
- Organised a talent contest Generation X that showcased the talents of local people young and old.
- Were part of a planning group organising The Brent Youth Oscars, acknowledging the work of local people involved in youth projects.
- Promoted youth issues through Brent Youth Parliament
- Took part in peer education and in-class support projects, educating and supporting younger students with their coursework and studies.
- Taken part in large scale events such as Brent Diwali, acting as Stewards, costume wearers, face painters, event organisers and building a float based on a story from Diwali.
- Taken part in wider community events and promoted Brent in the New Years Day Parade in Central London where they designed costumes, supervised younger participants and collected money for charity through bucket collections. The volunteers won 7<sup>th</sup> place out of 23 other London boroughs and won £1500 for the Mayor of Brent's charity along with £200 from their bucket collecting.





This is just a sample of some of the fantastic work that our volunteers have been doing over the past year and it is through the dedication and commitment from the volunteers that our projects have been going from strength to strength.

We have continued to provide our volunteers not just with quality projects that engage them in their community but also training in Health and Safety, First Aid and event management. So that our volunteers are learning valuable skills as well as having fun and making a difference.



## Partnerships

Brent Youth Volunteers work hard to develop working partnerships with local organisations and groups, we see the value in developing these partnerships to enhance community cohesion, strengthen the promotion of youth volunteering and provide a wide variety of opportunities as possible.

**St James' Church** - In 2008 we worked with St James' Church where the volunteers organised and ran a summer fair in the church grounds, developed a storytelling project with a senior citizens group and held a Christmas lunch for local senior citizens.

**Saving Londoners Lives** – Over seventy of our volunteers were trained in Emergency First Aid through Heart Start UK and the Saving Londoners Lives Project.

**CSV** – In November 2008 one of our volunteers won a bursary to attend the Volunteurope conference in Italy accompanied by a Brent Youth Volunteer Project Worker. Our volunteers also took part in a project headed by CSV that focused on young Londoners having a voice in Europe and attended a meeting in Paris to present the findings.

### **Other Partnerships in 2008/09 include:**

Brent Youth Service, Brent Mind, The Red Cross, Tender, St Lukes Hospice, Brent Youth Parliament, Brent Council, Plias, Mosaic and Brent Schools.



### **Youth Led Projects**

Brent Youth Volunteers support young people in setting up and running youth led projects. In 2008 our volunteers with our support successfully applied for and received over £20,000 from the Youth Opportunity Fund. These projects engaged the community through a storytelling project that highlighted the diversity of Brent and an environmental project that taught young people about gardening and the environment.





## The Future

We are constantly assessing our work and consulting young people on the kind of opportunities they would like to see. Even though the economic climate is a hard one at present we will continue to strive to provide good quality volunteering opportunities that engage young people in their community. We will build on our existing partnerships and no doubt will develop new ones, these partnerships are valuable as they help us to develop and grow as an organisation by sharing good practice, as well as ensuring we provide a wide range of opportunities to the volunteers. We are looking at ways in which our volunteers can contribute to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games within the Brent community through their own youth led projects as well as community based projects.



## Information and Communication

We have begun to update our website and other web based means of information and communication that young people can relate to. We recognise that the internet is a valuable way of reaching young people and so have set up a twitter account where our volunteers and staff can add comments on projects they have attended or ones they are setting up, as well as a Brent Youth Volunteers Facebook page so that volunteers can feel part of a group and share comments and photos from projects.

BRENT YOUTH VOLUNTEERS	
BYV	
<a href="#">Home</a>	<b>Brent Youth Volunteers</b>
<a href="#">About Us</a>	BYV provides opportunities for young people aged 16-25 to become involved in a wide variety of projects including reminiscence, regeneration, creative arts, events and school-based programmes.
<a href="#">Projects</a>	
<a href="#">News</a>	Young volunteers gain invaluable skills and experience as well as receiving a nationally recognised certificate for their achievements.
<a href="#">Opportunities</a>	
<a href="#">Competitions</a>	Take a look at our news and opportunities sections to find out more about us and how you can get involved.
<a href="#">Forum</a>	For more information on volunteering visit <a href="http://www.vinspired.com">www.vinspired.com</a>
<a href="#">Photo Gallery</a>	For information on youth action visit: <a href="http://www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk">www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">BYV on Flickr</a>	
<a href="#">BYV Video</a>	
<a href="#">BYV on Twitter</a>	
<a href="#">BYV on Facebook</a>	
<a href="#">Partnerships</a>	Do you think young people benefit from volunteering?
<a href="#">Jobs</a>	<input type="radio"/> No
<a href="#">Useful Links</a>	<input type="radio"/> Yes
<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	

## **Summary of the Financial Report – to follow**

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Email: [brentyouthvolunteers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brentyouthvolunteers@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Staff**

Eileen Sabur  
Pamela Gilmore  
Lucy Williams  
Oliver Mannion

With great thanks to all our wonderful volunteers!

