



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

March 2009 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

This issue of The Connector takes aim at youth and volunteerism. Read, share, and utilize the information and resources to strengthen the involvement of youth in your organization or volunteer program. Check out our 'Centre Stage' section to view opportunities for volunteers of all ages of who share a passion for child and youth advocacy. Support local youth by recommending dedicated community volunteers for a Canadian Youth Award, or promote their attendance at the 2009 World Youth Forum. By celebrating young volunteers, we are investing in the future of the next leaders in the sector.

Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC

Support First Call: Advocate for Children and Youth this Election

First Call, BC's Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, has created an election tool kit to support advocates for children, youth, and their families. The kit is intended to promote improvements in policy and practice which benefit young people. First Call is a coalition for children and youth that advocates working together to ensure that the issues of children and youth are on all agendas. Supporters of First Call share the view that children and youth are society's most important resource. Interested in receiving more information? Visit www.firstcallbc.org or email info@firstcallbc.org to receive weekly announcements on recent election issues and additional kit materials.



How can you make a positive impact on children, youth, and families during the provincial election campaign?

- **Register to vote** at www.Elections.bc.ca. Ensure you are familiar with all MLA leaders and candidates and their platforms.
- **Get involved** - attend meetings and candidate events prior to the election - voice your opinions and listen to those of others. Check out party websites for more information on upcoming events.
- **Involve others** - have conversations with friends, family, and colleagues or start a public forum. If possible include youth and other marginalized groups in the discussion.
- **Involve groups** - advocate for the implementation of child and youth policies among clubs, organizations, and committees you belong to.
- **Speak out** - write to your local newspaper about your hope for government action on child and youth issues.

Centre Stage

News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends

Volunteers Needed! Youth Program Facilitators

Are you creative, passionate about the arts, and dedicated to community involvement? The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vancouver is looking for short term volunteers available on weekends to facilitate child and youth arts programs. Instructors are required in drawing, photography, arts and crafts, hip hop dance, cooking, woodwork and more! For more information visit www.bgc-gv.bc.ca or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 604-324-3210.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada
Clubs Garçons & Filles du Canada



Volunteers Needed! Chapter Leaders

Kids Help Phone is looking for committed adults to volunteer as Chapter Leaders. Chapter Leaders are responsible for Kids Help Phone's marketing, fundraising and Student Ambassador programs in their communities. Each chapter requires people who take on the special role of overseeing the chapters' activities in their community and chairing an event or awareness committee. To apply for a volunteer position as a Chapter Leader visit www.kidshelpphone.ca

Volunteer of the Month: Laura Wright, Canadian Hunger Foundation

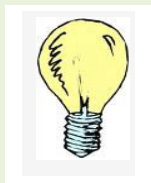


Volunteer of the month Laura Wright is an active youth and avid volunteer. Laura has a passion for working with marginalized groups including children and youth with special needs, seniors, and at risk youth. As an Easter Seals camp counsellor, and member of the UBC

Best Buddies Club, Laura volunteers her time as a companion to youth with special needs and organizer of recreation activities for children with developmental disabilities. By participating in UBC's Learning Exchange Program, Laura completed training to work with youth residents of Vancouver's downtown eastside and organized fundraisers for eastside soup kitchens through her community church on Bowen Island. Laura has also volunteered with seniors who require support through Kitsilano Neighbourhood House. Laura has a special interest in international development and complements her studies in International Relations at UBC with firsthand volunteer experience. In 2007, Laura travelled to Nepal to volunteer in a children's home where she acted as a tutor, care aide, and program coordinator. For the past four years, Laura has been an active member of UBC's UNICEF Club and participated in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. Laura's most recent volunteer initiative involves educating elementary school children and high school youth on issues in developing countries as part of the Canadian Hunger Foundation's global education team. Congratulations Laura - keep up the good work!



Did You Know?



- Youth volunteered a total of 154 million hours in 2000, which equates to almost 15% of all volunteer hours contributed by Canadians that year.
- Canadians who volunteer early in life are more likely to volunteer in later life.

Source: Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, 2003, *The Giving and Volunteering of Youth*

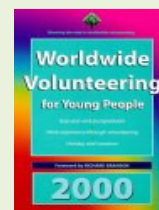
In Print / Audio

Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You

Book Review Worldwide Volunteering for Young People, By Richard Branson

Worldwide Volunteering for Young People is an excellent resource for youth interested in international volunteerism. This comprehensive read details over 800 voluntary organizations from 200 countries around the globe. Branson's book is based on the United Kingdom's online volunteer database similar to Volunteer BC and Volweb.ca's Volunteer Opportunities Listings Tool. With more than a quarter of a million volunteer projects for young adults from 16-25 you're bound to find one for you!

Published By: Youth for Britain, 2000



Article Recruiting Student Volunteers, By Estela Kennan

Estela Kennan's article "Recruiting Student Volunteers" in *Volunteer Management* outlines successful techniques for finding volunteer students. Topics include why students volunteer, what students want out of volunteering, how to recruit volunteers, timing student recruitment, and fostering continued commitment. This concise and accessible article provides practical solutions to volunteer recruitment issues by targeting an available population.

To read more on "Recruiting Student Volunteers" visit

http://nonprofitmanagement.suite101.com/article.cfm/recruiting_student_volunteers#ixzz08egd4C1d

Opportunities

Funding, Capacity-Development and More



Scholarship Opportunity: BC Aboriginal Student Awards

Attention: Aboriginal youth dedicated to education and community involvement. The Irving K. Barber BC Scholarship Society is offering several awards of \$1,000 - \$3,500 to finance the post-secondary education of BC Aboriginal students. The program is open to BC residents of Aboriginal ancestry who actively volunteer in school or community settings. Candidates must plan to enrol in an approved trades training or apprenticeship program, a certificate or diploma program, or an undergraduate or graduate degree program. The applications deadline is May 15th.

Learn more and visit www.bcscholarship.ca/web/aboriginal/apply to apply.

Nominations Needed! 2009 Annual Canadian Youth Awards



The Canada Day Youth Award is designed to recognize the outstanding achievements of young people. Specifically, candidates must be avid volunteers who uphold Canadian values and interests in sustainability. You or your organization may wish to nominate a young person for this award who exemplifies the qualities of citizenship that strengthen provincial volunteerism enrich our national life. Potential recipients must be 18 years of age or younger and have made a truly exceptional contribution in any of a number of areas (suggested minimum of 100 hours of service). Let's salute and encourage our Canadian youth who work to make a difference in their communities! Applications are due by **March 31st**. To download the application form

please visit http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/canada/pjfc-cdya/Jeunesse_Youth-eng.pdf

Go Global

News from civil society beyond our borders

Celebrate Global Youth Service Day!

This April 24th, 2009 is Global Youth Service Day - the world's largest celebration of young volunteers. To plan, share, and promote events visit the GYSD website at <http://www.gysd.org/home/index.html?width=128>. Want to get involved? Learn how you can support youth volunteerism by calling toll free 1.877.669.6884 or email Brandon@ysa.org

Supporting Sustainability: The 2009 World Creative Youth Forum

This year the World Spirit Youth Council and sponsors present the first annual World Creative Youth Forum. The forum celebrates young leaders from around the globe who are dedicated to sustainability initiatives. With the theme of education for sustainable development discussions will cover peace and human rights, climate change, social entrepreneurship, ethical living and technology. Youth leaders are encouraged to contribute their expertise to create innovative and proactive solutions to issues of sustainability. The event will be held from Tuesday, **May 5th** to Sunday **May 10th** 2009 at the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance. For more information visit www.worldcreativeyouthforum.net



Volunteer Abroad.



Volunteers Needed! Youth Outreach Overseas

Get energized and volunteer around the world on an adventure! Whether you are interested in environmentalism, health and medicine, education or social work, the opportunity to make an impact overseas is boundless. The BaseCamp International Centres Volunteer Abroad Program provides a unique and safe opportunity for volunteers to become actively involved in communities of developing countries. BIC placement coordinators work with local organizations such as NGOs, hospitals, clinics, schools, and orphanages to investigate what volunteers of all ages can do to help. BC youth are invited to explore the possibilities in

several volunteer placement projects located throughout Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Take advantage of the chance to learn a new language and build lasting relationships in a foreign culture.

To learn more about Volunteer Abroad placements visit www.basecampcenters.com



Youth Challenge International - Make a World of Difference!

Youth Challenge International, in partnership with local youth oriented organizations, develops skills, experience, and confidence in young people by involving them in overseas development projects. With active programs in Africa, Central and South America, Canada, and the South Pacific there are opportunities for everyone. Since 1989, over 2,500 youth have gained international volunteer experience with YCI. Motivated youth leaders aged 18-30 are eligible to participate in the program, and volunteer opportunities are available from five weeks up to one year. Ready to apply? For more information visit www.yci.org



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