

Annual Review 2002 - 2003

Volunteer Centre Edinburgh exists to involve more people more effectively in volunteering to solve problems and enrich communities.

YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ THIS

This year, our Annual Review is designed to be short enough to read in five minutes. If we have an email address for you, you'll read it on screen. We're saving our money, your time and everyone's trees. But there are some things you do need to know.

Seismic Shift

2002 - 2003 was a year of seismic change for the Volunteer Centre. We have established a new identity, moved premises, built and consolidated a range of projects that focus on the needs of volunteers and of organisations.

- 24,000** people learnt more about how and where to volunteer through our services
- 2,000** came to the Volunteer Centre or received advice over the phone
- 20,000** individuals visited the website
- 800** came to the annual recruitment fair
- 1,300** attended talks, presentations and stalls

Working with Volunteers

347 volunteers were interviewed by Volunteer Centre staff. 272 of these were volunteers with support needs. A number of the least confident of these volunteers benefited from our new buddying scheme, with Volunteer Centre staff accompanying them to their voluntary work. The new scheme has the added benefit of introducing organisations that are unused to working with volunteers with extra support needs. 75 young volunteers took part in the Millennium Volunteers scheme, 28 of them clocking up more than 200 hours of volunteering each, achieving the Award of Excellence.

Our employment mentoring project continues to produce outstanding, life changing results for mentees. With 100 long term unemployed people

"It was really good to know there was someone to talk to you with no other goal than to help you sort stuff out"

in Edinburgh, East and Midlothian receiving one to one support and employment mentoring from our 46 trained volunteer mentors.

In 2002 - 2003, Volunteer Centre Edinburgh extended its successful training programme to include training for volunteers. A total of 48 volunteers attended across a range of courses. All the volunteers found the training highly relevant.

104 young volunteers were honoured for their commitment as Millennium Volunteers at the award ceremony in March, and over 200 people showed their approval by partying 'til late.

More than 800 people and 70 organisations attended the annual Volunteer Recruitment Fair - the single largest volunteer recruitment event in Scotland.

“Volunteering gave me a great sense of satisfaction... I also got an insight into my future career”

Working with Organisations

It's no good encouraging people to volunteer if they're not going to have an excellent experience in their volunteering. During 02 - 03 we communicated with around 460 Edinburgh organisations through quarterly newsletters, weekly email bulletins and 10 new information briefing sheets. The Volunteer Centre answered 321 enquiries from agencies wishing to improve their practice in engaging volunteers. Our website features increasingly comprehensive resources across a range of topics, freely available to non-profits.

We also continued our successful programme of training for volunteer managers: we held 13 training events which were attended by 183 individuals. We ran a further 6 seminars, attended by 64 individuals, covering a broad range of topics.

Promoting Volunteering

The font and the logo are the visual evidence of some serious thinking about the Volunteer Centre brand. Volunteer Centres working together can now generate the marketing clout of large, national organisations.

The consolidation of the Volunteer Centre Network brand would not be complete without giving some thought to the Network's key service - the provision of information on volunteering opportunities. Volunteer Centre Edinburgh has played a leading role in developing a common database and website for the Volunteer Centre Network. Volunteer Centres in every part of Scotland now have the ability to publish opportunities on-line at www.volunteerscotland.org.uk.

The Volunteer Centre won the Best Not-for-Profit prize at the prestigious Scottish E-business Awards for 2002. The award acknowledged the accessibility and depth of information on our website, www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk.

“Just want to say what a fantastic site you have put together. I'm about to move to Edinburgh to work as a residential worker and was looking for ideas to offer my time to the community and also to meet people. Your site has given me a wealth of contacts and ideas of groups in and around Edinburgh.”

Accounts 2002 - 2003

Income: £314,520

Expenditure: £279,780

If you would like a full copy of Volunteer Centre Edinburgh's audited accounts, please contact the office at the address below. These figures are extracted from accounts independently audited by DM Vaughan & Co Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants.

People

VOLUNTEERS Richard Jamieson, Helen Walker, Bob Bryant, 46 dedicated mentors.

BOARD MEMBERS Jan-Bert van den Berg, Gill Hamilton, Douglas King, Elaine Lennon, Cynthia Milligan (Chair), Chris Phillips, Mike Reid.

PAID STAFF Paul Bennett, Lara Celini, Sarah Cleary, Harriet Eadie (Director), Marion Findlay, Linda McNeill, Irene Saunders, Jill Smith, Mark Steven, Paul Wilson, Jude Wilson, Irene Whittaker, Nick Woodhead.

Funders

City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Executive, Community Fund, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Unemployed Voluntary Action Fund, Lloyds TSB Foundation in Scotland, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Trust.

Find Us

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