

Social Responsibility Bulletin – 5th March 2009

If you are looking for matched funding, try the Big Give website

The Big Give <http://www.thebiggive.org.uk/> aims to match major donors to relevant charity projects and gives charities the chance to attract funding of up to £10 million. Donors can now set up their own matched fund or choose from a range of existing opportunities – those who give over £1000 can create a matched fund against registered charities. The website also has a new section allowing donors to browse over £50m in matched funding.

The Grassroots Warwickshire Fund from the Heart of England Community Foundation!

Grassroots Grants are funded through the Office of the Third Sector. Its aim, to give grant funding to small voluntary and community groups. The grant criteria has recently changed and now groups who have an income of less than £30,000 can apply. Capital and revenue costs can be considered and once you apply, a result will be known within a few weeks. This programme considers applications for all sorts of projects, but emphasis must be on volunteer led activity. There is £70,000 left to spend before April 2009, with a further £211,000 for the rest of 2009! Grants can range from £250 to £5000. Note, the applicant group must have been in existence for 12 months and have an income of less than £30,000. Application forms at www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk go to forms and reports and download both the fact sheet and relevant application form. For an informal discussion tel: 024 76 884435 and ask for the grants team.

Christian Aid invites you to a 'Climate Day of Action' in Coventry on 19th March

Just a reminder of the Christian Aid 'Climate Change Day of Action' in Coventry. See link below for further details: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/Countdown-to-Copenhagen-climate-change/come-to-coventry.aspx> There is no charge for attending the service in Coventry Cathedral, but it is a ticketed event, so don't miss out. To book a ticket for the day contact Pauline Lewis: pllewis@christian-aid.org or tel 0121 200 2283

nextstep West Midlands - Free advice for adults aged 20 and over

Do you know someone who.....

- * needs advice on updating skills?
- * has been made redundant or is or facing redundancy?
- * needs help with their future options?
- * is thinking about a career change?

nextstep is a free and independent service, offering face-to-face help and support about training, learning and the world of work.

nextstep is for everyone aged 20 or over, regardless of their circumstances.

The service is also available to: 18 year olds – but you must be referred from Jobcentre Plus, with the consent of their Connexions Adviser and 19 year olds who are Jobcentre Plus customers. nextstep offer Help and advice with: CVs, Job search, Applications forms, Interview skills, Careers advice, Skills advice, Courses, training and funding. For further information: www.nextstepwestmidlands.org.uk or tel 024 7670 7681/ 7626.

Citizen Organising Foundation offers Strategic Internships for Zimbabweans

Why offer an internship? There are approximately 11,000 Zimbabweans who have sought sanctuary in the UK. Many have been refused refugee status, but the government has agreed that they cannot be sent back at the moment. However, they are prevented from working, have little or no access to benefits, and many thousands are destitute. The *CITIZENS for Sanctuary* campaign www.citizensforsanctuary.org.uk is calling for Zimbabweans to be allowed to work until it is safe enough for them to return. For further information click on the following link: <http://www.coventry.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/socialaction/>

Gatekeeper

Divine Inspiration is a unique project which enables churches in our diocese to look at how they can improve their welcome, explore and share their building heritage and tell engaging stories to those who make visits their places of worship. If you would like to see their monthly newsletter 'Gatekeeper' click:: <http://www.coventry.anglican.org/socialresponsibility/divineinspiration/>

Eco-congregations and 'greening the churches' with Jo Rathbone

David Charles Edwards writes: 'PCN (Progressive Christian Network) Coventry & Warwickshire is a liberal Christian network, however this meeting focuses on an issue that transcends differences between liberals, other Christians and other faiths, there is great urgency and a challenge to Christians and churches about how they address 'green issues'. Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community. Jo Rathbone is the Churches' Eco-congregations Officer, based at the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park. I would like to invite you to a meeting on *Thurs March 19th at 7.30 pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 28 Regent Place, Rugby* to meet Jo and hear what she has to say about 'greening the churches'. Everyone welcome'

Carriers of Hope

Those of you familiar with Carriers of Hope will know it as a Christmas appeal. Items continued to come in and the challenge is how to turn this project into an all year round service. Carriers of Hope is aimed at supporting asylum seekers, especially those who are destitute.

We need two things - firstly gifts of money.....and then gifts of items such as those listed below. The challenge is to raise £2,000. As soon as we have this amount the service can start. This is to pay for storage facilities at the two

outlets, plus a small amount for running costs. The aim is to start straight after Easter. The target is to find 200 people who are willing to give £10 each. If you are able to help....please send a cheque made payable to "Carriers of Hope" - Sue Sampson, 55, Garth Crescent, Binley, Coventry CV3 2PP. Email Sue if you have any questions on Sue: smsampson@hotmail.com

'We would love you to continue supporting carriers of hope and below are a list of the items that are vitally needed: *Pants and socks, Soap, Washing up liquid, Kitchen Roll, Flannel, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Toilet rolls, Shampoo, Deodorant, Nappies, Cleaning products for the home and any other toiletries or sanitary products. Small folding umbrellas, baby and children's clothes, Toys and books, Baby equipment, Household linen – towels, tea towels, table cloths, curtains, bedding. Kitchen equipment – inc. kitchen tools, cutlery, pots and pans etc and supermarket gift cards that could be converted into any of the above.*'

This bulletin is sent from Revd Dr. John Hall, Director for Social Responsibility and Ruth Wagstaffe, Secretary to the Department for Social Responsibility. If you would like to contact John or Ruth please email: John.Hall@covcofe.org or Ruth.Wagstaffe@covcofe.org, alternatively telephone: 024 7652 1326