

Volunteering for Poverty and Homelessness

Volunteering for Poverty and Homelessness is one of the themes of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 in Leeds. There are many organisations in Leeds who use volunteers to help tackle the problems caused by poverty and homelessness. A number of these are listed below.



If you are interested in finding out more about what they do or if you wish to offer your time and support please do get in touch. For further information about volunteering please contact Volunteer Centre Leeds on 0113 395 0405 or visit www.val.org.uk.

Organisations in Leeds 2011

1. Abigail Housing

Abigail Housing provides supported accommodation to people who have come to the end of the asylum process. This includes asylum seekers who have lost their Home Office support and new refugees who are homeless.

Contact: john@abigailhousing.org.uk

2. Barnardo's Churches and Neighbourhood Action Project

The CANA Project was set up by Barnardo's in 1986. Barnardo's recognises that churches can have a major role in striving for equality of opportunity, justice and peace across society as a whole and specifically within their local community. CANA therefore aims to work in urban areas of West Yorkshire, primarily in Leeds and Bradford but also in Kirklees, Calderdale and Wakefield for the benefit of children, young people and their families. CANA offers an advice, support and consultancy service to church and community groups who are seeking to develop practical initiatives. We also encourage and enable church, community and neighbourhood groups to engage in collective action in response to expressed local needs.

Contact cana.headingley@barnados.org.uk

3. Big Issue In The North

We offer rough sleepers and those who are vulnerably housed an opportunity to earn a legitimate income by selling the Big Issue in the North magazine. We support people through assessing their priorities and providing signposting and support to access relevant services to address their individual needs.

Address: St Anne's Resource Centre 66 York Street Leeds West Yorkshire LS9 8AA

Contact: patricia.fas@bigissueinthenorth.com

4. **Canopy**

A Housing Charity that works with homeless people in the renovation of disused properties to create homes that are secure, affordable and decent. Canopy renovates empty and derelict houses that have been standing empty for years, and transforms them into homes through the hard work and commitment of their volunteers and tenants. They provides decent affordable accommodation for people that are homeless or in housing need. Their volunteers are an enthusiastic, interesting and diverse group of people from the local community and local schools and they do the practical work to renovate the houses, including light building work, plastering, painting, decorating, carpeting and tiling.

Contact: info@canopyhousingproject.org

5. **Caring for Life**

Caring for Life (CFL) seeks to support disadvantaged and vulnerable people through the provision of supported homes, housing support in the community and therapeutic daytime activity projects. In 2009 many people were safely and successfully housed; many more men and women integrated into our daytime projects; many utilising our new Arts and Learning Centre

Contact: via www.caringforlife.co.uk

6. **Christ Church Armley Youth Project (CCAYP)**

Christ Church Armley Youth Project has been running for eleven years meeting the needs of local young people by providing them with a safe, loving alternative to hanging around on the streets of Armley. CCAYP aims to support and encourage young people to make the most out of their lives. We do this through running various groups and sessions each week such as young volunteer training, a food co-op, one-to-one work and youth group sessions for young people aged 7-25, focusing on healthy lifestyles and promoting positive, fun activities such as crafts, sports and cooking. CCAYP is staffed by a strong team of workers and volunteers and is well respected throughout West Leeds.

Contact: Kirsty.ccayp@btconnect.com,

7. **Community Links - Housing Support** The service provides self-contained housing and support to clients with significant mental health problems and high support needs. Support is usually one-to-one and helps clients to access psychiatric and other services. The service also provides: emotional support guidance and advice; advocacy (speaking out on a client's behalf); practical help, including budgeting skills and organising housing repairs. The service encourages clients to be as healthy as possible both mentally and physically, and enables them to be independent by identifying their strengths, resources and aims.

Contact housingsupport@commlinks.co.uk

8. **CREATE**

CREATE is an award winning social enterprise developing innovative training and employment opportunities for people who have been homeless, marginalised or vulnerable. Running businesses as diverse as outside catering, cafes and a fashion boutique, Create offers people a real workplace to develop their skills, getting a foot back on the ladder of employment and making a meaningful contribution to society.

Create also operates FareShare West Yorkshire, an operation which rescues hundreds of tons of good quality surplus food from producers and retailers destined for landfill and redistributes this to local projects and charities that need access to food and good nutrition.

Contact info@createfoundation.co.uk

9. **Emmaus Leeds**

A home, a job, a purpose: Emmaus Leeds helps individuals build new lives. At Emmaus Communities, formerly homeless men and women live and work together in a supportive environment. Everyone in an Emmaus Community has a role to fill and contributes to the well-being of the Community. Emmaus Leeds is based in central Leeds on St Mary's Street which runs parallel to the York Road (opposite Quarry Hill) and is just 5 minutes walk from the bus station. Here we run a quality secondhand store with an excellent coffee shop attached. The shop sells secondhand furniture including chairs, sofas, wardrobes, beds and dining tables. We also sell a wide selection of books, clothes and bric a brac. You can also visit our furniture store at Leeds Indoor Market, between rows F and G.

Contact info@emmausleeds.co.uk"

10. **Foundation Housing**

Foundation is a charity working with offenders, the homeless, women who are victims of domestic abuse and young people at risk. They provide accommodation and support people to manage a tenancy, find a job, tackle drug addiction or improve family relationships

We work in locations across the North of England to tackle social exclusion of all kinds. In doing so, we support more than 3,000 customers including adults with drug and alcohol problems, women suffering from domestic violence, the young and the vulnerable, the homeless and people at risk of homelessness

Contact leeds@foundationuk.org

11. **Genesis**

We offer support, information and advocacy to women and young people, involved in, at risk of becoming involved in and exiting prostitution. We establish contact with our service users mainly through outreach services to both indoor and street workers, including a drop-in at the office twice weekly. As well as information and guidance on a variety of issues, including sexual health, working safely and drug use. We provide free condoms, lubricating jelly and gloves as well as pregnancy tests. We will support women and young people for as long as they need, offering

one to one sessions on a regular basis at a place of their choice. This includes accompanying them to appointments/meetings as an independent advocate.

Contact: genesis.leeds@btconnect.com

12. **GIPSIL**

Gipsil are based in East Leeds, and support people by providing housing and related services to who are vulnerable and in need. They assist vulnerable people to develop their skills for independent living

Contact info@gipsil.org.uk

13. **Home-Start Leeds**

Volunteers, trained and supported by the co-ordinators, offer support and befriending to young families experiencing stress and difficulty by visiting i the family home on a regular basis.

Contact : Office@home-start.leeds.co.uk

14. **Joanna Project**

The Joanna Project is an organisation which aims to help women exit exploitation from prostitution, Sam has been a volunteer there for about five years. Her role has included outreach work, which involves being the first contact with prostitutes on the street, usually taking them food and drink whilst attempting to develop meaningful social relationships with them. Now she predominantly acts as a check-in, maintaining regular contact with the street teams to make sure they're ok.

Contact: naomi@joannaleeds.org,

15. **Kidz Klub, Leeds**

Kidz Klub Leeds is a Christian charity promoting and working for the welfare of children in inner city Leeds. These areas suffer from desperate levels of deprivation and social exclusion, with high levels of unemployment, crime and drug use. Kidz Klub delivers creative, engaging and consistent work with children and families to see children reach their potential and communities flourish.

Contact: 0113 245 6533, info@kidzklubleeds.org.uk

Contact - kidzklub.owen@gmail.com

16. **LATCH**

LATCH is a voluntary sector organisation providing housing and support to people who are homeless or in housing need. LATCH also runs the Hands On community workshop, providing training in practical skills such as joinery and DIY, and volunteering opportunities on renovating empty properties

Contact info@latch.org.uk

17. **Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network**

The project offers one-to-one befriending and English at Home tuition using trained volunteer befrienders and tutors, emergency overnight accommodation in volunteers' homes, support to Leeds Refugee Forum and works on initiatives to raise awareness, provide information and relieve destitution among asylum seekers and refugees.

Contact admin@lassn.org.uk

18. **Leeds Citizens' Advice Bureau**

CAB offers advice on a wide range of subjects and is open to everyone living and working in the Leeds Metropolitan District. The main subjects we advise on are: Benefits and Tax Credits; Debt; Housing; Employment Rights. We can also help with many other subjects including fuel bills discrimination, tax, legal matters and more.

Contact admin@leedscab.org.uk

19. **Leeds Housing Concern**

Leeds Housing Concern began as a charity in the 1970's providing housing and support for single homeless people. Now a highly successful organisation, we continue to develop new, often pioneering services for people struggling to cope with a broad range of issues including learning difficulties, drug abuse and domestic violence.

Contact info@leedshc.org.uk

20. **Leeds Irish Health and Homes**

Leeds Irish Health and Homes is a charitable organisation offering a variety of services and support, not only to members of the Irish community but also to the wider community as a whole.

Our primary purpose is to enable people to live as independent a life as possible within our ethos of Care, Culture and Community

Contact info@lihh.org

21. **Leeds Street Pastors**

Street Pastors is based in Chapeltown and Harehills. It involves church members who have a concern for society, in particular young people and others who feel they are excluded and marginalised. A street pastor is able to engage with someone where they are, in terms of seeing people's perspective on life and going to the different locations where people are based e.g. a pub or party. Street Pastors also work with leaders, and with agencies and projects, both statutory and voluntary, to look at collaborative ways of working on issues affecting youth, and initiatives that will build trust between them and the street pastors. As a Street Pastor gets to know people in the community he/she finds out their needs and what can be done to help.

Contact: leeds@streetpastors.org.uk

22. Meeting Point

Meeting Point started in February 2003 and works with Refugees and Asylum Seekers based at Christ Church in Armley, Leeds. Meeting Point aims to serve the needs of Refugees and Asylum Seekers regardless of race, religion or legal status. Meeting Point principally aims to work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers towards social integration. We also provide a range of suitable community support in association with other organisations to meet the needs of our beneficiaries – whether health, employment, advice, family support or food. This is achieved through a weekly drop-in, support and advocacy work and befriending. We also aim to reduce negative stereotypes and break down barriers in the local community.

Contact: meetingpoint.leeds@live.co.uk, 0113 2796700

23. Multiple Choice

The emphasis of the Multiple Choice Volunteering Development Project is on supporting individuals who have had experience of social exclusion, or are from so called “hard to reach groups”, and are 18+. The project is aimed at increasing an individual's employability and focuses on an individual gaining new skills, confidence and moving towards education and paid employment in health and social care. The programme recruits volunteers several times a year and begins with an intensive 6 week induction programme.

The Volunteer Development Project offers volunteering placements within Multiple Choice and the opportunity to take up volunteering within partner agencies in the health and social care field.

Contact :info@multiplechoice.org.uk

24. People Matters

People Matters develops inclusive communities through learning, leisure and employment. The focus of our work is people with learning and other disabilities, including young people from 14 years. We consciously involve people who experience disadvantage as far as possible in all aspects of our work, including paid employment. We support people to enjoy leisure activities, to develop skills, to make friends and to enjoy life, and are increasingly supporting people who have Individual Budgets as part of this work.

We offer a number of courses under contract to the Adult and Community Learning Service, aimed at people with learning disabilities. These have been developed in response to people's interests. We also offer walking groups to suit different abilities. We support people to live independently in their own home.

Contact info@peplemattersleeds.co.uk

25. Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

PAFRAS deals with the support and welfare issues of asylum seekers and refugees. Focuses on destitution, runs two drop-ins for hot meals, food parcels, toileteries, blankets and support to homeless asylum seekers.

Contact pafrasemail@yahoo.co.uk

26. Poverty Action

The Leeds" Church Action on Poverty group campaigns on justice issues. This year CAP"s Poverty and Homelessness Action Sunday resources focused on "Enough for All": The recession is not just a crisis but a time to explore new ways of doing things. There is enough for all. Enough food, enough resources, enough money, enough homes, enough love, enough joy. But only if we don"t retreat into our shells. We must greet our neighbours, give what we can, and share our ideas, hopes, goods and skills.

Contact: kathrynfitzsimons@hotmail.com or

27. Poverty Aid UK Our goal is to bring together the two strands of 'aided-self-help' (care for each other) and 'responsible re-cycling' (care for our world) to create a local and national sub-culture of mutual care and support. In order to 'open the poverty trap', our twin goals of self-help and re-cycling are each split into two further strands: We aim to provide opportunities for the unemployed to gain new skills and qualifications; We aim to provide free or low cost facilities for members of the local community. We aim to ease the burden of poverty by providing the disadvantaged with easily affordable second-hand household items. We aim to promote within our society the re-cycling of goods as the only sensible way ahead in an over-populated, over-stretched, and over-polluted world.

Contact -info@povertyaiduk.org

28. Riverside

Leading registered provider of social housing in the UK, providing support and affordable housing.

Whether supporting the homeless, providing desperately needed accommodation or offering rented and shared ownership schemes we transform the lives of more than 80,000 people who call their Riverside house 'home'. We are committed to ensuring that each one of our customers feels safe, respected and supported in the home they have chosen.

Contact info@riverside.org.uk

29. Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is one of the largest, most diverse providers of social services in the UK after the Government. The work of The Salvation Army is funded through donations from its members, the general public and, where appropriate, local authority and government grants. In Leeds the Salvation Army provides support

and care for the homeless, through clubs for elderly, parent and toddler clubs, luncheon clubs, charity shops and through its hostels.

Contact: Pauline.dean@leedscitycollege.ac.uk

30. **Simon On The Streets**

Simon on the Streets is a registered charity providing practical and emotional support to street homeless people with complex needs in Leeds, Huddersfield and Bradford. We focus on those who are unable or are unwilling to access existing provision. Our projects include: daily outreach work, a weekly soup run, resettlement support and a breakfast club.

Contact: admin@simononthestreets.co.uk

31. **Spacious Places**

Spacious Places Day Treatment Centre is for men and women who want to recover from their addictions. The clients attend three hours per day, five days a week and there are individual key working sessions and group sessions, covering such things as: relapse prevention, working through a 12 step programme, life skills (e.g. learning English), and behaviour patterns and responsibility.

Contact: grahamfell@spaciousplaces.org.uk

32. **St Anne's**

Supporting people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, homeless people, and people with drug or alcohol problems.

St Anne's provides a wide range of support to a diverse range of people – the common factor is that all of our support is focused on the individual needs and aspirations of each person. Whether support is required because people are homeless, lives are chaotic due to dependence on drugs and alcohol or people need support because of mental health issues or a learning disability, St Anne's support people to live as a full and active member of their local community.

Contact info@st-annes.org.uk

33. **St George's Crypt**

St George's Crypt has been in existence for 80 years, working with people who are homeless. Over that time our services have developed to suit the ever-changing social demands that drive people into homelessness. Over the last year we have returned to a newly-refurbished building on Great George Street. We are developing our drop in centre and engage our clients in developing their own skills and talents.

Regent Terrace and Faith Lodge Hostels

Regent Terrace is one of the hostels run by the Crypt where staff and volunteers continue to faithfully serve people who are alcohol-dependent. The hostel works to change the drinker's lifestyle, whilst accepting that many people may not change and still need to be loved unconditionally. Faith Lodge is the second Crypt hostel

which caters specifically for men who are re-covering from addictions. Over the last year a very positive relationship has developed with Spacious Places; as a result a number of clients are well on the way to re-covering from their addictions (see Spacious Places entry for testimony).

Contact: taramacmillan@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk, www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

34. **St Vincent de Paul Society**

'The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is an international organisation whose activities in the Leeds region include: St Vincent Support Centre on York Road, which offers a wide range of free services to people in derived circumstances including debt management, personal counselling, learning support in basic language and numeracy and life skills, a community shop and healthy eating cafe - to name a few. St Jude's Furniture Depot in Holbeck which helps the local community by repairing donated furniture and electrical appliances, which are then delivered to people referred to them by caring services, training those with disabilities, and working with Probation Services to provide worthwhile work for people serving Community Service orders (non-custodial sentences). Ten SVP Community Shops located in deprived areas of Leeds and Bradford, which provide affordable goods, a social focus and volunteering opportunities for those in need.

Contact marie_atherton@btopenworld.com'

35. **Together for Peace (T4P)**

T4P works with people and organisations across Leeds with whom we develop and support cooperative projects (including film, schools programmes, neighbourhood meals, festivals, dialogue, arts and sport) that strengthen communities and promote peace-making.

Contact: hello@t4p.org.uk,

36. **Touchstone**

Touchstone works in partnership with service users, carers, agencies and communities to provide high quality services that improve the health and wellbeing of local people. We are person centred, valuing difference and celebrating diversity. We work with partner organisations to enable people to make informed choices about their own recovery. We always promote the social inclusion of service users.

Would you like to volunteer at Touchstone?

We train, support and supervise volunteers.

To become a volunteer you can either download an application form from www.touchstone-leeds.co.uk or telephone 0113 2162792 to request a form or ring to speak to Susanne Danon-Gradwell (Volunteer Coordinator) on 0113 2162792.

Contact: office@touchstone-leeds.co.uk

37. West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project

The West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project (WYCCP) is a multi-faith resettlement project helping reduce reoffending by supporting men who are being released from prison to succeed in a settled, crime-free life.

WYCCP works with specialist services across West Yorkshire to overcome the significant physical barriers faced by ex-offenders including homelessness, addiction and unemployment. But WYCCP also recognises the less tangible factors which can make or break someone's attempts at a fresh start such as acceptance, community, encouragement, faith and forgiveness.

Trained volunteer "Link Workers" complement the support of Resettlement Workers, empowering ex-offenders towards successful integration into the community.

Contact : info@wyccp.org.uk