

Celebrating Volunteering

Volunteering is entwined in the fabric of our society: its multitude of strands reach out to some of the most vulnerable people in our society and has touched the lives of many of us in various forms.

Volunteers make a tremendous difference: they gift their time, skills, enthusiasm and commitment to the vast catalogue of roles they hold, providing opportunities for young and old to be more active, day to day service provision, fundraising for projects and research and enhancing the lives of those who face difficulties in day to day life.

While many volunteers do not seek recognition or reward for their volunteering, we believe it is very important to take time to thank them. With this, you are acknowledging their commitment to your organisation and cause. You can give a personal thank you or even host a small event – it's entirely up to you. Listed below are a few suggestions for you to build on.

Volunteers' Week (1 – 7 June) is an annual celebration of volunteering throughout the UK. It's an ideal time to celebrate the commitment and resource your volunteers have given to your organisation in the last year. Take time out of your busy schedule and plan some activities to recognise and thank your volunteers for their achievement.

Celebrating Volunteering Certificate: CVS Falkirk will provide Celebrating Volunteering Certificates for you to present to your volunteers. You will also be able to request a long service badge (5yrs, 10yrs, 20yrs, 30yrs, 40yrs) for you volunteers. All you need to do is to complete the certificate request form with details of the volunteers and then submit to us. We will prepare and print the certificates at no cost to you and will be ready to collect from our offices the week before Volunteers Week.

Volunteer Get Together: organise an event to thank your volunteers and present them with their Celebrating Volunteering Certificate and long service badge. The event can be a coffee morning, afternoon tea or even a picnic or barbeque. If you take a photograph at your event, please email it to us and we will tweet it during the week.

Presentations: ask your local councillor, MSP, MP or local personality to attend your event to give the note of thanks and to present your volunteers with their certificates.

Snapshot Day: Pick one day in the year and photograph your volunteers in action, or get them to take a photograph of themselves volunteering. Publish these on your website or social media and remember to include it in your reporting to funders and annual review. You could make a slideshow presentation featuring your volunteers and then upload to a digital photo frame that can be displayed at your reception/visitors room etc.



Volunteering Visual: create a display board or window in your organisation to thank your volunteers. You can include photos of your volunteers with a brief description of their role.

#VolunteeringIn3: CVS Falkirk will be running their campaign again this year and will publish it on their website and social media. Ask your volunteers and staff to describe volunteering in 3 words. Submit the 3 words along with a photograph to us and we will collate all the responses for the VolunteeringIn3 Falkirk campaign. To see some of the fabulous examples from last year please visit the Twitter hashtag #VolunteeringIn3.

Social Media: Post thank you messages on your website and social media sites – tweet a thank you message to all your contacts about your volunteers.

Press release: Send a press release to your local paper/radio station highlighting the great work your volunteers do. You could include a total of the hours they have donated in the last year and calculate the economic value of their time.

For further information and assistance please contact us by phone on 01324 692000, by email: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk or by post CVS Falkirk, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk, FK1 1XR

Please submit your certificate requests and #VolunteeringIn3 captions by email: info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk or by post CVS Falkirk, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk, FK1 1XR