

## *Celebrating Volunteering Ideas*

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

Volunteers' Week (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Certificates

Each year, CVS Falkirk will provide Celebrating Volunteering Certificates for you to present to your 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. The event can be a coffee morning, afternoon tea or even a picnic or barbeque. If you take a photograph at your event, share it to your social media (and remember to tag @CVSFalkirk and @VolunteerFalkirk so we can share it)!

## Presentations and Visits

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, or in your 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.

## 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.

## “#VolunteeringIn3” and “#IVolunteerBecause...”

CVS Falkirk has previously ran social media campaigns, published on our website and social media. The beauty of social media hashtags are that they can be reactivated at any time, and you can get involved with either campaign whenever you like. Ask your volunteers and staff to say why they volunteer. Post their answers along with a photograph to your social media, including the hashtags.

## Press Release

Send a press release to your local paper or 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.

## Further Support

For further information, or support around any Volunteers' Week activity, contact our team by email: [info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk)