

A Strategy for Jewish Youth Volunteering

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Can the collective force of young people's active citizenship have a major impact on our Big (and little) Society?

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A Strategy for Jewish Youth Volunteering



Background

ABOUT THE JLGB – WWW.JLGB.ORG/FUTURE POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR JEWISH YOUTH

Since 1895, 118 years ago, the JLGB has trained and developed young people of the Jewish faith to reach their potential through active citizenship, within both the Jewish and wider community, empowering them to become future leaders of tomorrow.

Through a diverse range of experiences and activities the JLGB seeks to enrich the lives of young Jewish people through its local, regional and national framework, helping to develop the essential life skills needed to help their transition from young person to adult life.



REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

TARGETED SERVICES FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

The JLGB removes barriers to participation by providing positive activities within a fun, friendly, safe and structured environment, that meet the religious and cultural needs of the Jewish community.

Case Study: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

Set up by The Duke of Edinburgh himself, the DofE is the world's leading achievement award for young people.

The JLGB has been the exclusive Jewish operating authority for the Award since it was created in 1956 providing a kosher and Shabbat friendly targeted service to young Jewish people who, for reasons of religious or cultural observance, cannot undertake training with other mainstream universal services.

This has enabled thousands of young Jewish people, many from very orthodox families, to undertake and achieve their Award, including those with special needs.



www.jlgb.org/dofe

THE DOFE AND OTHER YOUTH AWARDS

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

This year the JLGB will be enrolling over 800 young Jewish people into the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, each of whom need to volunteer for at least 3 months to complete their Award.

- How can we help better place these young Jewish people (aged 14+) who need to volunteer to complete the volunteering section of this award?
- How can we give them a meaningful and positive experience where they can make a difference?
- Collectively these young people have over 12,000 hours to contribute to society – how can the Jewish community make best use of this youth volunteer workforce?



Level	Minimum time
Bronze	3 to 6 months
Silver	6 to 12 months
Gold	12 to 18 months

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Current Issues

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY & WIDER SOCIETY NEED HELPING ALL BENEFICIARIES ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

Why young volunteers, what can they really do for charities?

Although the idea of volunteering and citizenship is now firmly grounded in the classroom (and in the community) as an opportunity all young people should embrace, the practicalities of delivering these opportunities vary and are inconsistent.

At present there are too many catch all, one off opportunities that may fulfil national curriculum citizenship requirements, but aren't giving young people a true volunteering experience that makes a real difference or gives true benefit to the charities themselves.

Understandably, issues and inconsistencies that have arisen over their years, such as: *lack of follow up; school prioritisation; and young people's commitment*, all of which have made some charities question their engagement with young people. Whilst most charities recognise the benefits of youth volunteering, many want to make sure that the effort and energy needed to cater for young volunteers is clearly measurable against identifiable benefits to their primary beneficiaries.

UNLOCKING & EMBRACING YOUTH POTENTIAL

THINKING DIFFERENTLY SO EVERYONE BENEFITS

Is the Jewish Community ready, willing and able to engage young Jewish volunteers in a more powerful way?

What kind of volunteering could young people get involved with in their community?

- Helping people, such as the elderly or disabled
- Helping with the environment or with animals
- Helping a charity or community organisation
(Community action and raising awareness)
- Helping their peers, such as coaching, teaching, befriending and youth leadership

Can we create an environment where the collective force of young people's active citizenship can have a major impact on our community and wider society?

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STAKEHOLDERS

CHANGING THE CULTURE OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

WHO HAS TO BE IN THE CONVERSATION?

WHO ARE THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS?

- Charities
- Schools
- Young people
- Parents
- Communities
- Award Bodies



KEY TO SUCCESS IS EACH STAKEHOLDER UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS & DRIVERS OF THE OTHERS

CHARITIES THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE LOTS TO OFFER WHEN ENGAGED & EMPOWERED

Fundamentally, volunteering opportunities need to have direct benefit to charities and their primary beneficiaries, but what additional factors should charities be thinking about when working with young people?

- **Age appropriate hands on volunteering** – from what ages can charities find meaningful opportunities for young people?
- **Flexible thinking by charities** – opportunities for after school, Sunday, Shabbat friendly or holiday time volunteering models
- **Empowerment, choice and group volunteering** – how can young people be empowered to work together to make social change?
- **Accreditation and reward** – what external benefits or drivers might make young people decide to volunteer, or parents to prioritise their children's need to volunteer?
- **The medium is the message** – communication and interaction with young volunteers through their preferred social networking tool.

HEALTH & SAFETY GONE MAD!

THE RIGHT POLICIES IN PLACE TO INCREASE YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

What barriers or myths are there to youth volunteering, such as health and safety, and how can we work together to overcome them?

Most charities may not be aware that because employment legislation does not apply to volunteering, there is no minimum or maximum legal age for volunteering. However, what does apply is the general law of **duty to care** which organisations are obliged to observe.

Before appointing any young person, it is recommended you should look at four particular areas to safeguard young volunteers:

1. **Health & Safety** (in particular risk assessment of any potential hazards)
2. **Child protection and youth participation policies**
3. **Insurance (public liability)**
4. **Specific skills, training or prior knowledge needed**

Involving young people in your organisation may not require much more than some adjustments to existing policies and procedures you already have in place and the addition of a child protection policy if you don't have one and wish to involve young people under the age of 18.

THE ENHANCED ROLE OF SCHOOLS

HELPING SCHOOLS TO MANAGE YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERING

Youth volunteering – it's more than ticking boxes!

Volunteering is an important component of Citizenship education in schools.

However, the “first steps” into a volunteering experience needs to be more than just fulfilling curriculum objectives. Embedding a habit of volunteering at an early age has been shown to be effective in establishing a lifetime of volunteering, and helps young people improve their life chances through the development of transferable social and work skills.

What enhanced role could schools now play in helping to promote and encourage volunteering?

Time pressures, volume of student uptake in awards and many other factors make creating meaningful opportunities sometimes difficult and hard to manage and access. With an easy to use online profile and management system that links directly with pupils achievements at charities, teachers will be able to manage students' volunteering with minimum effort and saving precious time.

THE VOICE & IMPACT OF YOUTH

EMPOWERING YOUTH VOLUNTEERING BY REMOVING BARRIERS

In addition to faith and cultural barriers for Jewish young people in accessing volunteering opportunities, many common youth barriers, needs and wants also need to be addressed.

A British Youth Council's survey found the following:

The main barriers to volunteering are: *cost, knowing what is available and time*

- The research identified a number of barriers to volunteering, but the most significant appear to be cost (associated with volunteering, such as travel), knowing what volunteering opportunities are available to them, and not having free time.

Young people want more remuneration and community recognition

- The research reveals that to help overcome barriers to volunteering, there needs to be a move towards better remuneration for volunteer expenses and more formal recognition of the time they put into volunteering.

Young people need more flexible opportunities and more information about them

- The research identifies the need for more flexible volunteering opportunities and better information, peer-marketing and promotion of the volunteering opportunities available.

Young people are regularly engaging in both *formal and informal* volunteering

- The majority of young people are engaging in both *formal* and *informal* volunteering activities. (Formal volunteering was defined as getting involved in community type projects or in the work of organisations compared to informal volunteering, which can involve helping friends and relatives with chores like shopping or gardening).

YOUNG PEOPLE'S GOAL SETTING

HELPING TO ENSURE EVERYBODY'S EXPECTATIONS ARE MET

Questions for young people to think about:

- What type of cause or charity would they like to help?
- How will they find out how they can do this locally?
- What are they specifically going to do? Where are they going to do it?
- How will it help an individual, others and/or their community?
- What do they want to achieve? What are their specific goals?
- Who is going to help them complete their activity?
E.g. Who will support them? Who will assess them?
- What evidence will they collect to show their progress?

RECOGNITION AND RESPECT

REWARDING TO DRIVE MOTIVATION & INCREASE RETENTION

DON'T FORGET TO SAY THANK YOU!

Young volunteers need to be acknowledged, appreciated and respected for their contributions; the factors that contribute to the retention of volunteers include rewards and recognition.

Recognition should occur frequently and consistently, in a variety of forms, such as awards, certificates and ceremonies to celebrate volunteer contributions, in addition, these young people should also receive local publicity for their contributions in their communities.

TALKING WITH & INVOLVING PARENTS

VOLUNTEERING CAN BE A FAMILY EXPERIENCE TOO!

Do parents really know what their children need to do in order to complete their volunteering award requirements?

Can we better engage parents with their children's volunteering, and how can they help?

An American study found that the biggest factor in whether or not a teenager volunteered was linked to their family and community connections.

"A young person whose parents volunteered was twice as likely to volunteer as someone whose parents didn't and was three times as likely to volunteer regularly".

Could increased youth volunteering, lead to increased parent volunteering too?

A STRATEGY FOR ALL THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

ACCESS FOR SYNAGOGUES, COMMUNITY CENTRES & YOUTH GROUPS

Young people engage and interact with their communities in numerous ways, most notably through schools, synagogues, youth groups and of course social media.

Although their school journey may seem very linear, today's young people pick and choose their out of school activities from a variety of different choices and options. Although many of these services were not originally designed in this way, more often than not this “hyper-interactive” and non-linear way of menu choosing of opportunities, means young people's positive contributions and skills development can now take place in multiple spaces, spheres and platforms across any given week.

Therefore, it is vital that all benefits and uses of a Jewish Youth volunteering strategy can be accessible and driven locally by any communal body or organisations who involve young people in their programmes or services. This will help then to engage:

1. **Young Jewish people who do not attend Jewish schools**
2. **Youth leaders to access nationally recognised awards & accreditation**
3. **Synagogues & community centres to matrix their existing internal certificates into national awards and accredited transferable skills, whilst ensuring they remain faith sensitive**
4. **Charities and organisations to be able to 'reverse' sign and back-date their existing young volunteers so their contribution is nationally recognised.**

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

AGE BY AGE AWARDS & RECOGNITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The age progressive range of Volunteering Awards:

- **The Junior Citizenship Award** (Primary School Ages 8-11)
- **The Yoni Jesner Award** (Ages 12-14)
- **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award** (14-25)
- **National Open College Network** (14+)
- **The vInspired Award** (14-25) (and school volunteering fairs)
- **Plus.....The creation of a student volunteering Awards and campus fairs** (working with UJS and Vscheme)

JUNIOR CITIZENSHIP AWARD

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

How does it work?

- Each child receives their own individual volunteer record sheet for recording the time they have spent doing good deeds.
- The award is split up into 5, 10, 15, 20 hour awards for school years 4, 5 and 6.
- Once 200 hours have been completed in total by pupils of the school, the school also receives a framed certificate.



THE YONI JESNER AWARD

FOR 11-13 YEAR OLDS – WWW.JLGB.ORG/YONIJESNER

The scheme is dedicated in memory of Yoni Jesner, who was tragically killed in a bus bomb in Tel Aviv in September 2002. Yoni was committed to encouraging young people to do as many acts of chesed (kindness) as possible.

- For pupils aged 11-14 – who will be encouraged to complete a certain amount of voluntary hours within, and importantly, outside of the Jewish community throughout the academic year.
- JVN and JLGB will be looking at possible changes to this award, with focus towards volunteering preparation and skilling up training (eg. first aid, sign language, dementia awareness and manual lifting & handling).

Yoni Jesner Award

User Name: Password: [Log In](#) [Forgot password?](#)

SIGN UP FOR YOUR YONI JESNER AWARD

The Yoni Jesner Award is dedicated to the memory of Yoni Jesner z"l, who was committed to encouraging young people to do as many acts of kindness (chesed) as possible.

This award is for those aged 11-14 who are encouraged to achieve at least 20 hours volunteering over the course of the academic year. After completion, they receive their award at a prestigious ceremony in June. For inspiration on what volunteering young people in this age group can take part in, speak to their school's Yoni Jesner Award Coordinator, who can help, or, once registered, a list of local opportunities will be visible at the top of your profile.

First Name:

Surname:

Date of Birth:

Home Tel:

House Number:

Postcode:

Email Address:

Confirm Email Address:

School:

THE VINSPIRED AWARD

A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AWARD FOR AGES 14-25

Any volunteer aged 14-25 in England can apply for one of three vInspired awards simply by keeping a record of their volunteering online. JLGB offer this award to all sixth formers through annual volunteering fairs.

- ☐ **v10** awarded after 10 hours of voluntary work.
- ☐ **v50**, gained from completing 50 hours of volunteering in your local community
- ☐ **v100**, achieved by doing a further 100 hours volunteering.

www.jlgb.org/vinspired



The vInspired Award is a national volunteering award designed exclusively for 14-25 year olds and is administered for the Jewish Community by JLGB.

SIGN UP FOR YOUR VINSPIRED AWARD

First Name:

Surname:

Date of Birth:

Home Tel:

House Number:

Postcode:

Email Address:

Confirm Email Address:

School/University (if applicable):

School Year (if applicable):

Form Class/Tutor Group/Course (if applicable):

Are you signing up for the award through another organisation (e.g. Synagogue or Youth Group) - not your school/university?

Have you volunteered before?

Which award level are you signing up for?

SIGN UP

vInspired Award

ACCREDITING VOLUNTEERING

EMPLOYABILITY, SKILLS & LIFELONG LEARNING

In July 2007 the JLGB became an approved centre for the National Open College Network (NOCN) Centre No: 57183, to deliver nationally accredited courses and qualifications. NOCN is the UK's foremost provider of high quality, flexible credit-based qualifications.

Types of volunteering that can be accredited:

- Event Management
- Leadership Skills
- Peer Mentoring
- Community Fundraising
- Sign Language
- First Aid

www.jlgb.org/aiminghigh



OTHER TYPES OF VOLUNTEERING - MAKING ALL VOLUNTEERING COUNT!

CONSOLIDATING & SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL JEWISH YOUNG PEOPLE:

- One day/one off volunteering (activity week)
- Communal Days (e.g. Mitzvah Day, Fun Run, AJEX Parade)
- School enrichment sessions
- Intergenerational projects
- Inter-faith/social cohesion and social action
- Creation of a student volunteering award (UJS)
- National Citizen Service (NCS)
- A Decade of Social Action (Cabinet Office)

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A PROGRESSIVE FRAMEWORK

THE EVIDENCE OF NEED

GATHERING DATA TO MAP YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERING PREFERENCES

This year, JLGB will be enrolling over **800** DofE Jewish participants, of which approximately **520** of them (**65%**) have indicated they need help finding a volunteering placement. We can also breakdown the sign-up data by area of interest or school/area etc. Along with this intake, this year JLGB will enrol an anticipated **900** students through the vInspired award, **250** through the Yoni Jesner Award. This means we need to find, map, align and create between **1500-2000** youth friendly and faith sensitive volunteering placements.

NUMBER OF JEWISH DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD PARTICIPANTS IN NEED OF A VOLUNTEERING PLACEMENT (AND THEIR PREFERENCES) IN THE 2011/12 SEASON

DESIRED VOLUNTEERING PREFERENCES CHOSEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE DURING ONLINE DofE SIGN-UP

Fundraising	Helping Children	Helping Older People	Helping People In Need	Helping People with Special Needs	Working in a Charity Shop	Working with Animals	Unsure what to pick
73	175	89	100	66	106	156	103

“THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE”

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN A VIRTUAL ERA

Vision

“To create a volunteering “journey” programme that embraces all Jewish primary and secondary school students to enable and equip them to fully engage in meaningful volunteering and citizenship throughout their school career and into student life”.

This will be facilitated through a comprehensive strategy for youth volunteering working in partnership with schools, charities and organisations

MAIN PROJECT AIMS & OBJECTIVES

A JOINED UP & COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Our project creates a coherent, age-progressive and streamlined framework for volunteering and accreditation for Jewish young people, which aims to:

1. **make the contributions of young people more visible and valued in the Jewish community**
2. **promote youth volunteering through greater collaboration across the Jewish charity sector, schools and with parents**
3. **develop a wide range of accredited training modules for young people that enhance their employment potential**
4. **create innovative and flexible youth empowered volunteer projects which build stronger local communities**
5. **promote positive messages about the range of volunteering opportunities available to young people with information and volunteer matching services**
6. **set up an online framework to enable young Jewish people to easily record their volunteering hours and training evidence in order to achieve certification and accreditation.**

AIMING HIGH FOR JEWISH YOUTH

CREATING A FRAMEWORK FOR ACCREDITED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING

How can we use online technology to better track, support and encourage the progress of young volunteers?

The pinnacle of this strategy is the further development of a backbone **“online e-training evidence and individual skills profile management system.”**

This tool will act as the framework for volunteering ,training accreditation and evidence not just for the JLGB but as a remote support tracking system for Jewish community partners including Jewish schools and charities.

IT'S YOUR LIFE - SO LIVE IT!

LOGIN
Hi Stefan Clark
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MAIN MENU

- Home
- Personal Details
- Enrolment
- Unit Administration
- NOCN**
 - Session List
 - Camp Administration
 - Camp Enterprise Signup

Session List

Please see below for a list of Leadership Training Sessions you have attended. Please make sure you have evidence.

Session	Level	Date	Tutor	Progress
Getting to Know You	Cpl	2010-11-05	B Skinner	details
Game Theory	Cpl	2010-11-05	B Skinner	details
You JLGB?	Cpl	2010-11-05	A Grace	details

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Session Evidence - Getting to Know You

Date: 2010-11-05
Tutor: B Skinner
Why Icebreakers?

During this session you talked about different Ice Breaker / Warm Up Games. Why do we use these?

New Members

Can you list 3 different ice breaker / warm up games you could play with new members?

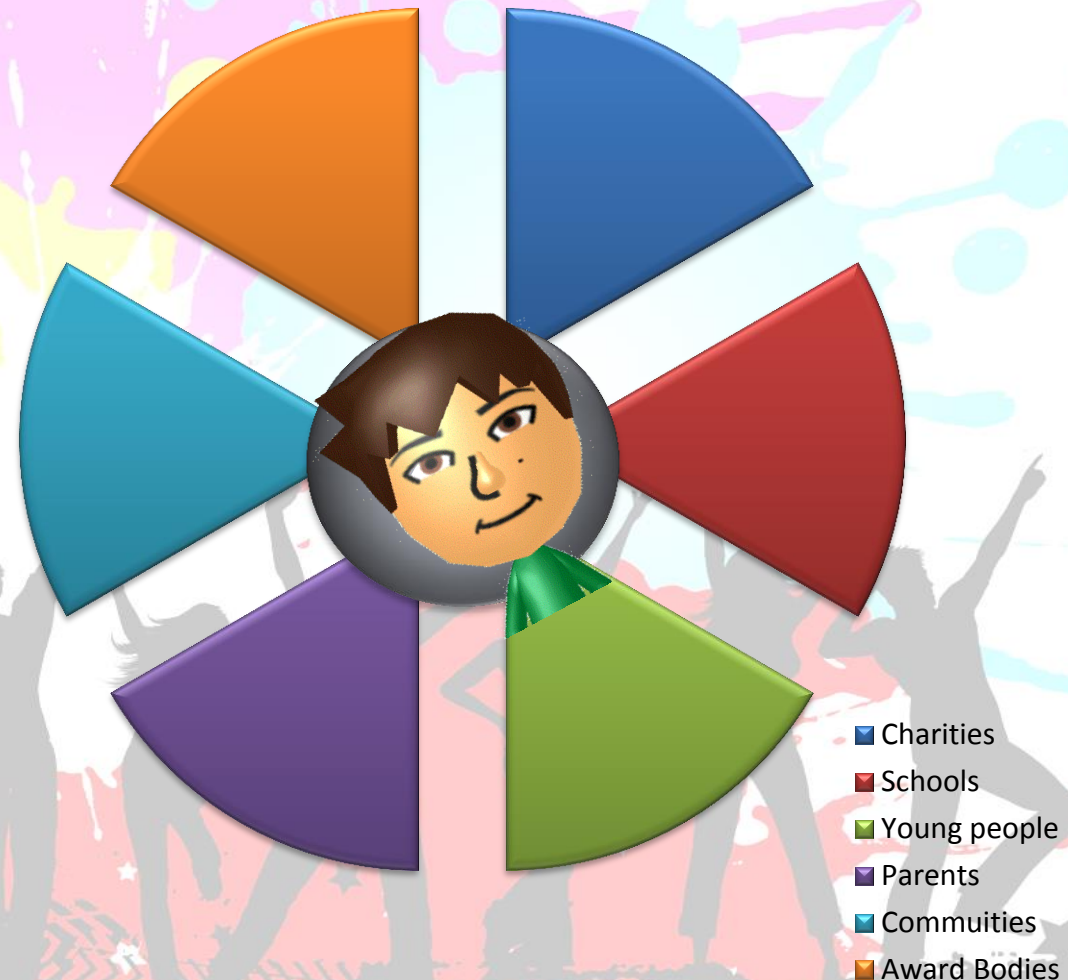
MEASURING IMPACT & OUTCOMES

USING PROFILES TO MAKE MANAGEMENT EASIER

Through the use of individual young people's profiles, we are gathering data such as age, gender, school, volunteering interest, hours volunteered and with which charities or causes.

This will allow stakeholders to “live” monitor and manage these young volunteers and also to paint a picture of the impact made from each of their different perspectives.

For example we can measure: the collective impact per school year; the number of young people helping the elderly, disabled or animals; the preferred choice of volunteering opportunity by age or gender and the national impact of all young people on the Jewish community and wider society.



TURNING THE DREAM INTO A REALITY

AIMS & OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR ONE

This strategy has four core aims during year one, which have kindly been supported by the Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation and Pears Foundation.

1. Streamlining of volunteering services offered through the creating of online profile system
2. Helping charities to become even more youth friendly
3. Increased youth participation in volunteering and accreditation
4. Helping schools to prioritise and manage more impactful volunteering opportunities



THE MAURICE WOHL
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

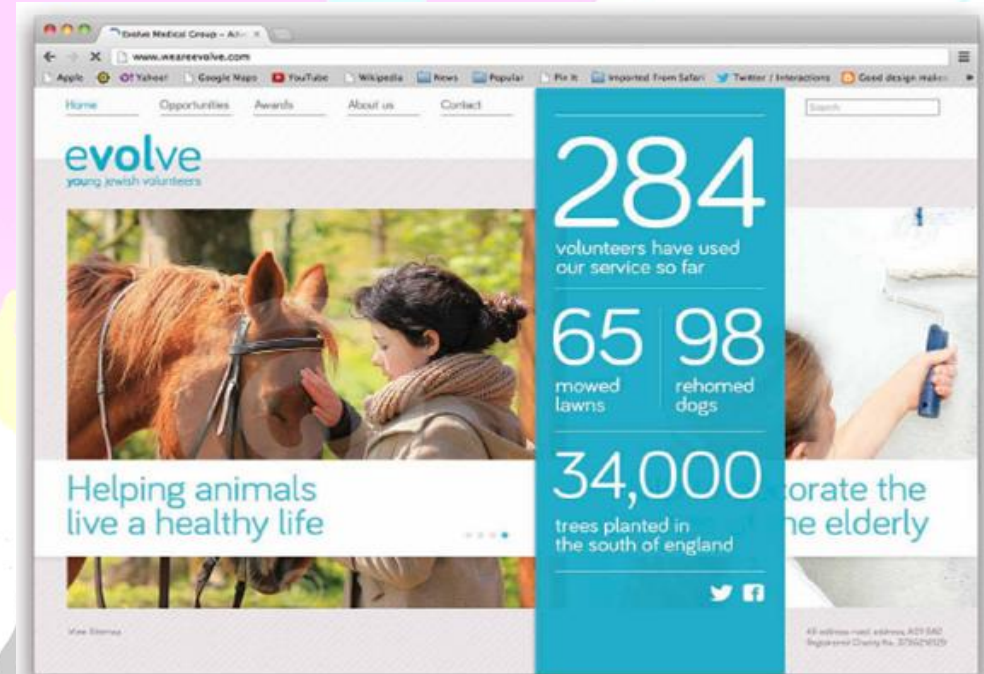
pears
foundation

YEAR ONE AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1) STREAMLINING VOLUNTEERING AWARDS BY DEVELOPING ONLINE SYSTEMS

Our online system will provide a central and user friendly interface whereby young people can easily create their own volunteering profile and log hours over their school and communal journey.

Teachers, charities and youth leaders will be able to log in and view statistics on volunteering, helping them to easily manage volunteers and follow award progression.



Concept artwork for Wohl/Pears Project

The first phase of this project has already proved a success with the digitization of several Awards, including the Yoni Jesner Award (in partnership by JVN). Through this new online systems we have recorded over 240 young people's Yoni Jesner sign ups since December 2012, which has already resulted in over 1500 hours of youth volunteering being recorded so far!



YEAR ONE AIMS & OBJECTIVES

2) HELPING CHARITIES TO BECOME EVEN MORE YOUTH FRIENDLY

With potentially 2000 young volunteers to place this year, our aim is to work with charities to help them to engage even more young volunteers and help young people to get the most out of their experience through accredited training and national awards.

Working with over 50 charities and organisations we will meet with all with who are keen to do more with more young volunteers, and help them to map out how they can match young people's needs and award scheme requirements with their own aims and objectives.

The online system can also be easily applied in reverse, allowing for charities to help their existing young volunteers sign up get recognition of their volunteering through national awards.



YEAR ONE AIMS & OBJECTIVES

3) INCREASE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN VOLUNTEERING & ACCREDITATION




With the development of the streamlined online system, we will be able to vastly increase our capacity in helping Jewish young people to access awards and training.

Currently, young people can sign up to both The Yoni Jesner Award and The vinspired Award online, log their hours and teachers are able to track their student's progress.

Ultimately, a central online system will be a indispensable tool for charities, youth groups, schools and synagogues to promote volunteering, provide training and measure the impact of young people on the Jewish and wider community, as each participants start to build their volunteering and accreditation profile.

YEAR ONE AIMS & OBJECTIVES


4) HELPING SCHOOLS TO MANAGE MORE IMPACTFUL VOLUNTEERING



With the help of school partnerships and a dedicated member of staff, young people will be able to discover faith sensitive volunteering opportunities and awards in a safe and trusted environment.

Teachers and Informal Educators are best placed to support these young people's volunteering in schools, and we can work with them to help teachers to map a young person's volunteering to the school curriculum, ensuring that participants are rewarded every time they achieve.

We believe that our approach to volunteering and accreditation compliments many schools' philosophies of active citizenship and giving back to the community, and schools are very much the best link between charities and parents.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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Phone 020 8989 5743 Email: volunteering@jlgb.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/JLGBHQ

Twitter: @JLGBHQ Web: www.jlgb.org/volunteering

