

Funding for Young People to Improve their Community

v, the independent charity set up to encourage young people to volunteer, has launched the third application round of the vashpoint scheme. Working in partnership with the HSBC bank, vashpoint is a £1 million initiative that will provide grants of up to £2,500 to young people to set up their own volunteering projects within their community. The type of activities that could be supported could include running activities for children, transforming a community space, supporting victims of bullying, running workshops for young people, setting up a local campaign, clearing up a beach, running music, art or sports events for disadvantaged people, or organising a festival to bring different cultures or communities together, etc. To help develop fresh and innovative project ideas, youth workers across the country will be using a brand new limited edition brainstorming kit called 'Outside the Box'. Outside the Box was piloted regionally with a number of youth groups and has proven to be an effective way to engage young people and help them identify potential volunteering project ideas. The next application deadline is the **25th April 2008**.

<http://www.vinspired.com/vbuzz/campaigns/171/>

Government Announces New £6m Programme for Young Leaders

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has announced that it is to make available £6 million over the next three years to unlock the talent of young leaders so that more young people are able to champion local and national issues and to become positive role models for their communities. As part of the new programme, the Government wants to work with dynamic and innovative youth leadership organisations to:; develop and promote internships with local councillors; increase opportunities for young people to act as leaders within their communities; to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to overcome the barriers that prevent them from fulfilling their potential; launch a national campaign to celebrate achievements of young people who have championed causes; to encourage and support schools to increase leadership opportunities; and advise and challenge Government on involving young people in decision-making at the highest level. The Government will publish proposals in the summer relating to how the £6m investment will be delivered over the next three years

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00233-2008&>

£6 Million of Funding to Develop Volunteering

The Office of the Third Sector has announced that in response to the Commission on the Future of Volunteering report, "Manifesto for Change", the Government will be providing £6 million of new funding to develop opportunities for volunteering. This will include £4million of funding for new training programmes for volunteers and volunteer managers as well as £2million to create a new access to volunteering fund for disabled people. The volunteering fund for disabled people will be implemented during 2009/10- 2010/11 and will be piloted in three regions and focus on increasing opportunities for disabled people to volunteer.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080307_volunteering.aspx

Futurebuilders Extends its Investment Base

Futurebuilders England, the government-backed investment fund for the third sector, is set to open its doors in April to organisations working across all areas of public service delivery. Offering loans-based investment packages, Futurebuilders provides flexible finance to

organisations that are delivering public services or want to start contracting with public bodies, such as local authorities, primary care trusts or learning and skills councils. Established in 2004, the Futurebuilders Fund was originally only open to groups working in crime, community cohesion, children and young people, education and learning, and health and social care. From April 2008 an additional £65 million will be made available to extend its support to organisations working across all areas of public service delivery, including sport, recreation and leisure, environmental projects, waste and recycling, legal aid, and the arts. Futurebuilders has invested in over 250 third sector organisations including charities, social enterprises, community interest companies, voluntary groups and community organisations. Each investment package is tailored to meet the individual needs of the applicant and its proposal. Loans are offered at a standard rate of 6% and are often combined with grants and professional support to help build capacity for generating income and winning contracts.

http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/content/News/newstest/article_37_674.aspx?iid=310

Save the Children – Here to Help Awards

The Awards support projects that are for the benefit of, or which involve, young people (aged 18 and under). The Awards can fund projects and activities that help children and young people who are excluded or isolated as well as those living in areas of noted deprivation. Applications are particularly welcomed from groups who may face disadvantage and discrimination because of issues to do with, for example, gender, ethnicity or disability.

Awards up to £1,000 are available through this round. Deadline for applications: **28 March 2008** for projects running from June to August 2008.

www.helpyourselves.org.uk/helpyourselves
helpyourselves@savethechildren.org.uk

Community Foundation Offers Express Grants of up to £2000

The Quartet Community Foundation which supports local causes in Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire has announced that the Express Grants programme is now awarding grants of up to £2000. Express grants are available to local voluntary and community groups in need of immediate funding, working with people who are disadvantaged or isolated due to poverty, disability, age, location or culture. The maximum grant is £2000. However, older people's groups addressing issues around health and wellbeing may be eligible for grants of up to £2500. Applications can be made **at any time**.

<http://www.quartetcf.org.uk/>