

**Volunteering is ...**

... the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside one's immediate family. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern for financial gain.

Volunteer Development Agency  
Annsgate House, 70/74 Ann Street, Belfast BT1 4EH

Telephone number: 028-9023 6100 Fax number: 028-9023 7570  
E-mail: [info@volunteering-ni.org](mailto:info@volunteering-ni.org) Web site: [www.volunteering-ni.org](http://www.volunteering-ni.org)

A charity (Inland Revenue) No: XO 115/92 Company limited by guarantee No: NI26680



**VOLUNTEER**  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DESIGNED BY SUSAN KERR T&F (028) 9267 5893



The Volunteer Development Agency promotes and develops quality volunteering by providing a central resource of support, information and training on volunteering practice.

### **Information**

- Consultancy and advice on all areas of work with volunteers
- Publications, fact sheets, reports and newsletter
- Access to a comprehensive information bank
- Policy updates on matters relating to volunteering

### **Training**

- Quality, accessible training on volunteer management practice
- Tailor-made training designed to meet specific requirements

### **Promotion**

Events and campaigns, including -

- Volunteers Week (1-7 June)
- Active Community Initiative
- Whitbread Volunteer Action Awards
- Challenge 2000
- International Year of the Volunteer (2001)

### **Projects**

Accreditation - the Training Accreditation Project explores and accesses suitable routes to accreditation for volunteers and their managers.

Training for local groups - the Community Training Programme is a joint venture between the Volunteer Development Agency and the volunteer bureaux, and delivers volunteer management training to smaller, locally based groups.

Child protection - Our Duty to Care offers support and training on putting child protection guidelines into practice.

Employer Supported Volunteering - supports companies to actively encourage their employees to take part in volunteering activity within their local communities.

Promoting participation - building active communities

### **Grants programmes**

Community Volunteering Scheme - supports the development of volunteering among under-represented groups, especially people who are not in paid work.

Millennium Volunteers - promotes and recognises sustained volunteering among young people aged 16-24.

Volunteer Bureaux Initiative - supports and develops the network of volunteer bureaux in NI, to improve the infrastructure of volunteering.





## Volunteers Week

Volunteers Week is a national campaign which runs 1 - 7 June each year. The Week provides an opportunity for organisations to 'recognise, reward and recruit volunteers'. The theme of this year's Volunteer's Week is "stars". There are over 800,000 volunteers in Northern Ireland who make a star contribution to community life through traditional service giving, mutual aid, self-help, advocacy, campaigning and community action.

The best thing about volunteering is that anyone can do it! Whether you are male or female, young or old, regardless of race or religion, ability, background or any other label, volunteering is accessible to everyone. The Week provides a platform to show the diversity of people and activities which help make our communities connected. We want people to change their minds about volunteering from doing something for free to doing something that provides real enjoyment and satisfaction.

During the first week of June, organisations throughout the Province will be celebrating Volunteers Week with parties, dancing, exhibitions, music, open days, get-togethers, discos, fetes and even more volunteering! To kick off the Week in Northern Ireland the Volunteer Development Agency have organised two major events:

*Let's Talk Volunteering* (held on 31 May) and the *Connected Communities Conference* - of which you are a delegate. This major one day conference aims to raise the profile of volunteering and to encourage organisations, policy makers, funders and individuals to value the contribution and maximise the impact of voluntary involvement.

The launch of the Active Community Initiative means volunteering is high on the Government's agenda. The aim of the Initiative is to help rebuild a sense of community throughout the UK, by encouraging and supporting all forms of community involvement.

In keeping with the aims of increasing volunteering opportunities and widening the base of volunteers, a volunteering FREEPHONE has been established. It is based on the principle that becoming a volunteer should be a seamless, quick and relatively unbureaucratic process, while at the same time ensuring the necessary checks and quality standards are maintained. The freephone uses the 13 local volunteer bureaux network as a response mechanism.

The calls will be managed in such a way that people using the number will be automatically put through to the Bureau nearest to them, for example, a caller from Fermanagh will be put through to the Fermanagh Volunteer Bureau. In this way an increase in the number of volunteers can be effectively managed and the bureau will be able to place volunteers quickly and offer them support throughout their volunteering.

**0800 052 2212**

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES VALUE VOLUNTEERS

