

10/2007

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## Young people to cash in on volunteering

More than 500 young people seeking to set up their own community projects have applied for grants from v, the youth volunteering charity, through an innovative funding initiative called v<sup>cashpoint</sup>.

The charity, in partnership with HSBC Bank, is offering £1 million over two years in grants of up to £2,500 to help young people get their projects off the ground. To inspire young people's ideas for volunteering projects, v produced a creative funding toolkit called Outside the Box, which was designed by the charity's Youth Advisory Board, v<sup>20</sup>.

More than 1,000 toolkits were produced and sent to youth workers and voluntary sector groups working with young people aged 16-25 and a series of creative workshops were held across the country.

John Handscombe, a youth leader at Wooden Hill UK Ltd who attended one of the workshops in Bedford, says: "The session was great. I thought the content was really cool, easy to use and fun. It provoked a lot of ideas from the young people at the session."

Sue Wicks, v Head of Programmes, says the response from young people shows the level of enthusiasm young people have for volunteering: "We have been overwhelmed by the amazing response from young people who want to set up their own volunteering projects and make a real difference to their communities.

"This is a youth-led initiative and the Outside the Box toolkit was inspired by the 16-25 year olds on our Youth Advisory Board, v<sup>20</sup>. We are delighted by the positive feedback we've had from youth workers who say the toolkit really helped to generate project ideas."

Applications will be assessed according to set criteria with eligible applicants selected by members of v20. Successful applicants will be notified in writing in June, 2007.

For more information about v20 visit [www.wearev.com](http://www.wearev.com)

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**Media enquiries:** [katharine.preece@geronimocommunications.com](mailto:katharine.preece@geronimocommunications.com) or call 020 7299 8778

**Notes to Editor**

- v is the new youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a million more young volunteers in England aged 16-25.
- The charity was set up to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission outlining a new national framework for youth action and engagement, following a nationwide consultation which included 6000 young people.
- v is led by the cares, interests, passions and beliefs of young people. An advisory board made up of twenty young people called v20 is involved in all aspects of the charity's work. Four members of v20 sit on v's Board of Trustees.
- v works with and builds upon the current voluntary sector infrastructure, funds the creation of volunteering opportunities through grants rounds and implements programmes to create awareness and positive understanding of volunteering for young people.
- v has been formed as an independent charity using an innovative new model which allows funds raised from the private sector to be matched by the Government. Up to £50 million has been allocated by the Government for this purpose over the next three years.
- HSBC Bank has committed £500,000 over two years to v20 as part of the vMatch Fund programme – a unique initiative by which v accesses government funds to match up to 100% of private sector donations to youth volunteering projects.
- v has created a web-based portal designed by young people to provide a unique environment for them to find out about volunteering and search for volunteering opportunities in their area. For more information, please visit [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)