reachskills.org.uk | mail@reachskills.org.uk |
Tel: **020 7582 6543**

REACH NEWS - January 2010

Dear Volunteer,

Welcome to the first Reach newsletter. I am delighted to be bringing you this first edition. The past year has been a very challenging one for many voluntary organisations. Reach has had its fair share of challenges but we've also had some exciting opportunities. As we start this new year, Reach is committed to helping voluntary organisations get the skills and support they need to be successful. In 2010 we are extending our core work of helping voluntary organisations find great skilled volunteers and will be providing other information and resources for our volunteers and organisations. This newsletter is just one of the ways we plan to improve the support we provide and learn more about how we can help you.

I hope that you find the articles interesting and informative. The Reach team would welcome your feedback and ideas on what you might like to read about in future editions

Please keep an eye on our website for more information about Reach and our work and as always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the team if you are looking for a new skilled volunteer or a great new volunteering opportunity.

Peter Sheppard
Reach Chair

Corporate volunteering delivers big online punch for small community groups

GlaxoSmithKline initiative forges ongoing links between volunteers and charities

It's not every day that an entire team of top corporate communication specialists goes looking for volunteering opportunities. But that's what happened last year after staff at pharmaceuticals and healthcare giant,

GlaxoSmithKline, were given an extra day's holiday to be spent supporting the wider community. GSK's Corporate Communications team put its business skills to work for two London community groups, The Brix and Portugal Prints. What resulted was 'a very rewarding and collaborative experience.'

Read more ...

Reach responds to national shortage of Charity Trustees

TrusteeWorks aims to close recruitment gap and improve governance

With close to half of the UK's charities reporting that they have vacancies on their governing boards, a major new initiative to boost trustee recruitment has been launched by Reach. Called TrusteeWorks, the new service is setting out to raise awareness amongst thousands of existing and potential skilled volunteers of the rewards and challenges involved in being a trustee.

And organisations of all sizes are being offered specialist help and assistance to bring fresh talent onto their boards.

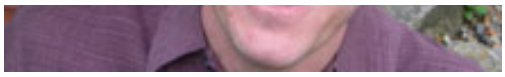
Read more ...

Charity commission issues warning on "Weakness in Governance"

Regulator will signpost TrusteeWorks

The Charity Commission is warning that weaknesses in governance are frequently the root cause of many things that can go wrong in charities.

Responding to the launch of TrusteeWorks, Neal Green, Senior Policy Adviser at the Commission, says the Commission shares Reach's desire to see charities benefiting from having skilled and



experienced trustees. And, in an article specially written for the first Reach newsletter, he points out that being a trustee has its benefits.

Read more ...

Recession has a silver lining for UK's voluntary sector

Reach Chief Executive Sarah King on the upside of the economic downturn

Most readers will share the hope that 2010 will see an end to the recession and an easing of the financial pressures that faced voluntary organisations and individuals alike last year. But while we may hope for easier times ahead, Sarah King argues that not all of the fallout from the recession was harmful.

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