

NEWS RELEASE:



3 June 2011

Lord Mayor joins Envision in celebrating young volunteers' achievements during National Volunteering Week

Students from 11 schools in Bristol have clocked up over 3000 hours' volunteering this year, as part of the Envision citizenship programme

Envision Bristol is today celebrating the volunteering efforts of 200 students from across Bristol who have taken part in the charity's citizenship programme this academic year.

Young people aged 16-18 from eleven schools in Bristol and South Gloucestershire have been involved with the programme and between them, they have spent over 3000 hours volunteering on local community and citizenship projects, tackling issues such as racism, poverty, care of the elderly and homelessness.

In addition, adult volunteers who have helped to run and support Envision's citizenship programme in Bristol have clocked up an additional 400 hours', which is further cause for celebration.

On Tuesday 28 June, Envision Bristol will be hosting an event to celebrate the students' achievements. Awards will be presented in recognition of the commitment and teamwork that the young people have demonstrated and for making a difference to their communities through leading by example.

The awards will be judged by representatives from solicitors' firm Clarke Willmott, the Kingswood Foundation and local councillor, Pete Levy. The event will also be attended by the Lord Mayor of Bristol, and a number of other councillors.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the young people will be able to take part in a range of workshops and activities, including parkour and circus skills. Food for the day is being kindly donated by The Co-operative.

Gemma Timons, Regional Co-ordinator of Envision Bristol, said: "Envision has been a huge success in its first year in Bristol and we're delighted that students across the city have spent 3000 hours volunteering to support community projects and campaigns. We look forward to acknowledging their achievements at our event on 28 June."

Student Bridie Campbell-Birch, 18, from City of Bristol College, said: "Envision has helped me develop my confidence and I have learnt a lot about what people can do to help others. I would like to do more volunteering within the next year and hopefully the skills I have learnt will help me become successful in future!"

Envision Bristol, Unit G.5 The Office Bristol, St Nicholas House, 31-34 High St, Bristol BS1 2AW

www.envision.org.uk

Envision (full name Environmental Vision) is registered as a Charity and a Limited Company in England and Wales
Charity Reg No. 1095328 Company Reg No. 442212

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Notes to Editor:

- Envision was founded by four young people in June 2000 as a response to the environmental and social issues facing British society in the 21st Century.
- Envision won the Guardian Charity Awards 2008 and recently reached the finals of the National Lottery Awards.
- Envision trains adult volunteers to deliver its Schools Programme to young people.
- Envision has received a GoldStar Award – a cabinet office initiative – for its ability to engage underrepresented young people and adults in volunteering with a difference.
- Envision relies on voluntary donations to fund its schools and colleges programme. To donate please visit www.envision.org.uk/donate
- Today Envision supports teams of 16-19 year olds from 130 schools and colleges in Birmingham, Leeds and London, helping over 2000 young people every year to design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change. The experience builds confidence, aspirations and skills inspiring the next generation of young community leaders.
- Last year 93% of Envision students indicated an improvement in their confidence and 95% in communication skills. 97% of participating young people said that taking part in Envision had improved their understanding of social issues and 93% indicated an improved understanding of environmental issues.

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