

NEWS RELEASE:



29 June 2011

Lord Mayor joins Envision in celebrating 3,000 hours volunteered by Bristol teens

On Tuesday 28 June, Envision Bristol presented 100 young people aged 16-18 from across Bristol and the surrounding area, with the 'Young Envisionaries Award' - for demonstrating commitment and teamwork, and making a difference to their community through leading by example.

Envision hosted a special event at Circomedia to recognise the efforts of the students, who have developed their own community projects over the last year, tackling issues such as racism, homelessness and poverty. The event also provided an opportunity to showcase the students' work to special guests including the Lord Mayor of Bristol.

Lord Mayor Cllr Geoff Gallop said *"The event is amazing, I am totally blown away by what Envision and the young people are doing. It's so important to encourage and support young people in trying to make things change for the better and from making a small difference, bigger differences will follow. All councillors ought to know what you are doing"*

Special awards were given out to students for outstanding work achieved over the course of the year. This included the award for **Best Team of the Year** which was won by Abbeywood Community School for their project which raised money for HIV/AIDS and Cancer Research UK by holding a music event. The award for **Student of the Year** was won by Sofina Begum-Pir from Colston's Girls' School for her involvement in developing a project to combat Racial Discrimination. The rest of the team from Colston's Girls' also won the **Media Award** for their effective use of the media as part of their project.

Other winners were a team from Cotham School who raised over £500 for the charity Water Aid and Chew Valley School for the workshop they designed to highlight issues around negative body image. City Academy were also awarded for their campaign to combat racism which they presented to local MP Stephen Williams.

Envision participant and Cotham School student, George Millman, 17, said, *"Being part of the phenomenon that is Envision has been a fantastic experience, I can't describe how rewarding the whole experience has been. Obviously being part of Envision is something to put on our CVs, but the true reward is the feeling of personal satisfaction that you get from working this hard and I think that's something that we should be proud of."*

Gemma Timons, Regional Co-ordinator of Envision Bristol, said, *"It was a great showcase of what young people can achieve and the positive impact they can make in their communities when given the opportunity. We're very proud of everything they've achieved this year and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow as active citizens and community leaders."*

Envision are recruiting Team Mentors for the new schools programme next academic year. If you have 2 hours to spare a week then get in touch with Gemma at gemma@envision.org.uk and we'll match you with a school near to where you live, work or study.

Ends

For further information please contact:

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To see photo's from the day go to www.facebook.com/envisionuk. If you'd like copies of any of the photos please contact Gemma Timons.

Watch this film to see how young people from Envision have impacted on their communities this year.

<http://youtu.be/-42XIFQH-I4>

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.