



NEWS RELEASE:

15th March 2010

Above and beyond volunteering Envision volunteer wins 'Best Mentor' Award from Kids Count

On **Wednesday 10th March** Envision volunteer Steve Holloway joined a host of inspiring individuals at the House of Commons to collect his Kids Count Inspiration Award in recognition of five years' volunteering with Envision.

Over the last five years Steve has worked with **over a hundred young people** and dedicated hundreds more hours to helping them realise their potential through the Envision programme, which supports young people to find creative solutions to the issues in their communities.

In the last five years, the young people that Steve has supported have taken action on a huge range of issues. They have organised a party for children with Sickle Cell Anaemia, taken part in a 'sit-out' to raise money for a local homelessness charity, and organised a mentoring scheme between sixth-formers and younger students in their school.

Describing his experience mentoring Envision teams over the past 5 years Steve said, "The issues that my teams have chosen vary enormously each year, depending on what inspires them. One year a team was very interested in gun and knife crime and gangs, as there had been a number of high-profile killings. They cared so much about it - they decided to set up a mentoring scheme in the school which ran for the whole year."

Envision's Volunteer Coordinator Emily Pickering said "Steve's strengths as a youth mentor lie in his firm belief in the untapped potential of young people. He has the ability to help young people realise their capacity and encourages them to channel it into positive action."

Steve was nominated for his zeal to go above and beyond the expectations of a voluntary post, providing additional support when needed at Envision events and always being a reliable, dedicated and hardworking member of our extended team.

Of the Kids Award Ceremony Steve said, "The event was really good – it was great to be there alongside so many inspiring individuals. Some of them had done some really extraordinary things."

Steve collected his award from **Kids Count's Director, Linda Lawrence**, and athlete **Dalton Grant**.

Envision London, 3rd Floor, 63 Gee Street, London, EC1V 3RS

www.envision.org.uk

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To anyone thinking of volunteering Steve said, “I would say that it can be one of the most rewarding things you do. I’ve had so many great moments in the last five years – I’ve loved it.”

Envision relies on its network of **over 100 volunteers** like Steve across the country to support young people to make a difference in their community. If you are interested in volunteering with us, email Emily at emily@envision.org.uk or call 0207 253 1677. You can read more about the Envision volunteer experience at www.envision.org.uk/volunteers

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Notes to editors:

Envision

- Envision provides young people with the opportunity to make a difference. The charity was set up by four young people in 2000 to challenge the stereotype of ‘the youth’ as apathetic and disengaged.
- Today Envision’s flagship programme supports 16-19 year olds from over 100 schools and colleges in Birmingham, Greater London, Leeds and around the country, helping them design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change.
- Envision has been recognised as a GoldStar Exemplar Project for its best practice in recruiting and supporting volunteers.

Kids Count

- Kids Count is a grass-roots think tank aiming to find practical solutions to the broad spectrum of issues that affect children and young people in urban and rural communities.
- The Inspiration Awards recognise those individuals and organisations that have quite literally inspired young people in their communities. Addressing issues that affect their lives by creating initiatives that are grounded in practicality and realism and make a positive difference, whilst giving a voice to young people to determine and influence their own futures.

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