



## Global Xchange

Young people active in the community



Global Xchange is a unique international volunteer exchange programme managed by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and the British Council. This exciting programme gives young people from different countries a unique opportunity to work together, to develop and share valuable skills and to make a practical contribution, where it is needed, through volunteering in a community in the UK and overseas.

In March 2008 a team of 18 volunteers (aged 18-25), 9 from Malawi and 9 from the UK, will begin the 6-month programme. Volunteers are selected and trained in both countries. They live and work together for 3 months in the UK and for 3 months overseas (Malawi). From March to May and June to August the team will be in each community spending over 6000 hours engaged in voluntary work within local community organisations for 10 weeks and we are appealing for community hosts living or near your area.

### Can you host a pair of volunteers in your home?

- Do you have one spare room? Volunteers pairs (from UK and overseas) will share.
- For up to 10 weeks?
- Volunteers are expected to be part of the home and are willing to cook and clean for themselves if required.
- Anyone can be a host: young, old, couples, families.....

### Global Xchange provides:

- A weekly allowance of £75 per pair of volunteers to contribute to food and accommodation costs.
- Selection, training and referencing of volunteers, before they arrive.
- Briefing about the programme for you.
- Two project supervisors on hand for support whenever necessary.
- A unique opportunity to learn more about other cultures from the comfort of your own home.

**If you are interested in hosting 2 volunteers for up to 10 weeks from March to May then please register your interest in the usual way and you will receive further information.**

## Event Attendance

During recent months we have noticed that there has been an increased number of incidences of volunteers who show interest in an event but do not turn up. Although we are aware that in the majority of cases this is due to unexpected commitments we do still ask that where possible, you contact someone at the office or the event organiser to let someone know. As our events are often very popular and have limited spaces we do ask that you only put your name forward if you are certain you are able to attend, otherwise it means that someone else will miss out on the opportunity and also means the volunteers that do attend will have to do more work and have less breaks.

MEV is in the process of creating new policies for non attendance at events and will keep you informed of these procedures once they have been confirmed.

**If you are interested in any of the opportunities in this newsletter please call 0161 234 1530, return the register of interest, log on to [www.mev.org.uk](http://www.mev.org.uk) or e-mail [info@mev.org.uk](mailto:info@mev.org.uk) for more info**

# The Manchester Settlement

The Manchester Settlement is a charity founded in 1895 by The University of Manchester, set up to address the effects of poverty and disadvantage in the area. Currently the main focus of our work is with young people who are low/non school attenders at risk of exclusion. Our Complementary Education Projects R.I.S.E and Choices and Chances engage young people aged 13-16 in a varied timetable of curriculum subjects and activities aimed at raising skills, behaviour, self confidence and self esteem.

We are looking for creative volunteers to work as part of the team to support the timetable with Arts & Crafts and/or photography sessions. The role will include;

Bringing new ideas to, and helping plan, basic Arts & Crafts sessions

Assisting staff deliver Arts & Crafts sessions to young people

Designing artwork with young people

Assisting young people with photography – how to take a good picture and photographic techniques.

Volunteers need to have an interest in Arts & Crafts and/or some knowledge of photography. This is a good opportunity for volunteers interested in youth work. The opportunities can be long or short term.

We also have opportunities for volunteer playworkers to assist staff on our Easter Playscheme. (March 25th-April 3rd)

**All volunteers would need to have a satisfactory CRB check**

## Don't Be A Cancer Chancer - Catching It Early Could Save Your Life



A campaign that has been developed to raise awareness about the early symptoms of cancer will be launched across North Manchester throughout March 2008.

Don't Be a Cancer Chancer is aimed at local people to encourage them to seek early advice about symptoms that they can spot themselves which may be related to cancer. Breast, bowel and lung cancers are the biggest killers not just in Manchester but across the county and 500 lives a year across Manchester could be saved if people went to their doctors sooner with suspected symptoms.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with putting together information packs consisting of the campaign material – such as information leaflets, posters, toilet rolls, etc for distribution within the local community and to related organisations such as chemists, GP surgeries, etc.

This work will be undertaken at Victoria Mill, Lower Vickers Street, Miles Platting and will take place over a period of days from 19th February until probably 29th February. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The campaign is also being publicised within shops, pubs, post offices, hairdressers and bookmakers and we are looking for assistance with distributing this material within these establishments across the wards in north Manchester which are: Bradford, Harpurhey, Moston, Ancoats and Clayton, Higher Blackley, Crumpsall, Miles Platting and Newton Heath, Cheetham and Charlestown.

We are also looking for volunteers who perhaps are involved in their local community centre and would be happy to undertake displaying some of the material on our behalf.

With support from people helping to display the message the campaign will be more successful. The campaign will be launched in March 2008 and will run for one month and needs to remain on display for this period.

**DID YOU KNOW.....**With MEV, volunteering is about personal choice and you can get involved with events which interest you most. You can also take part in training opportunities with local colleges, leading to further qualifications and, if needed, help with finding a job!

## ROCHDALE BOROUGH MEGA MELA (Multicultural Festival)

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd August 2008

Bowlee Park, Heywood Old Road, Middleton, M24 4SD

Multicultural Arts and Media Centre (formerly, Multi Asian Arts) is planning its 14th year annual International Community Festival, which provides an accessible and enjoyable arena for the all the communities that attracts a wide audience from across the North West and the country. The event has always been a family event, which brings people from all communities, having great fun and appreciating the multi cultural event.

This is Rochdale's biggest annual public cultural event of it's social calendar. The Mela is expected to attract 8,000 throughout the day.

The two days will include major funfair, sports, increased sports activities by community groups, high profile national and international performances by Western, Afro Caribbean and Asian bands, professional Kabaddi (Asian Wrestling), Visual Arts workshops, Fashion show, dance and various stalls including businesses, food from a variety of different countries, fashion, designer jewellery, arts and crafts.

**Roles** Helping backstage, greeting visitors, assisting Deputy Managers, putting signs, supervising Lost Children area, helping artists in workshops and lots more

**Due to some of the duties involving contact with children, some of the volunteers will need to be CRB checked. MAMC can arrange for this to be done for those who register early.**



### CALL - Cancer Aid & Listening Line

CALL is a local charity providing emotional support and home-based practical help to people living with cancer, their carers and families. All services are delivered by trained volunteers who are managed by a team of professional staff based in offices throughout Greater Manchester.

CALL was set up as a telephone help-line in 1982 and has since continued to grow and develop new services. The help and information telephone line operates from 7.30pm to 10.30pm every evening and is available for anyone who has concerns about cancer and other life threatening illnesses.

CALL requires volunteers to give home-based emotional support and practical help. Services are tailored to each individual, but they could include:

- **Listening and befriending: talking through difficulties and concerns**
- **Respite sitting, allowing carers time to themselves**
- **Practical help such as shopping, dog walking etc**
- **Driving and support for a hospital appointment or treatment**
- **Social activities, days out, coffee mornings, relaxation sessions**
- **Group support**
- **Information about local services and support networks**

**All services are provided free of charge.**

CALL provides all volunteers with a 3 day training course (to be completed before volunteering commences) and out of pocket expenses. Next training is at CALL Stockport, Beechwood Cancer Care centre on the 11th, 12th and 13th February. **A satisfactory CRB check is required for this opportunity.**

**If you are experiencing difficulty with event organisers not contacting you before an event, please contact the Central Team on 0161 234 1532 and we can find out what's happening for you. This may just be an oversight on the organisers behalf.**



## Volunteers Receiving E-mail Notices



Some of you may have read in the last edition of the newsletter the reason MEV advertise certain events by e-mail.

We *have* thought long and hard of how we can include everyone in these communications and have come up with an idea of sending a short text message of the opportunity to those volunteers who do not have access to a PC. Obviously, there will be a cost to MEV and therefore we would like to gauge volunteers opinion on such a service.

If you are interested in receiving these messages please can you state this on the register of interest form confirming an up to date mobile number we can contact you on.

### AOL Blocking emails

We are currently experiencing problems sending our e-newsletter to volunteers who are using AOL email addresses. We believe this is because AOL have placed our hosting company's web address on a banned list. Therefore our e-mails will either not be delivered or sent to a junk/spam e-mail folder. We have contacted AOL regarding this matter, so hopefully the problem should be rectified soon. In the interim, if you have access to an alternative NON AOL email address, please get in touch and we will update your details. You can also visit our web site [www.mev.org.uk](http://www.mev.org.uk) where you can access all of our news items and your MEV newsletter.

## MEV FOCUS GROUP

**Would you like to be involved in an MEV Focus Group? We are looking for 10-15 people to meet a few times per year to provide us with their thoughts on the service and how it could be made better for everyone taking part.**

**If you would like to be involved, please contact Mark on 0161 234 1530**

**If you are experiencing difficulty with organisers not contacting you before an event, please contact the Central Team on 0161 234 1532 and we can find out what's happening for you. This may just be an oversight on the organisers behalf.**

**If you have any friends who are not receiving the newsletter, this is probably due to them not completing the questionnaire. Please can you ask that they complete the questionnaire and return to MEV Office as soon as possible? If they require a copy of the questionnaire please contact us.**

### MEV Merchandise coming soon!

**We have will be introducing a range of exciting MEV branded merchandise for sale on our website**

**[www.mev.org.uk](http://www.mev.org.uk)**

**The merchandise includes t-shirts, jackets, bags, pin badges, pens and mugs, be sure to check the website often!**

## CONTACT US

**Manchester Event Volunteers**  
**FREEPOST - MRI 514**  
**Manchester Town Hall, M60 2BR**

**Tel: 0161 234 1530**

**Answerphone: 0161 234 1515 (after 5pm)**

**Fax: 0161 236 5405**

**E-mail us: [info@mev.org.uk](mailto:info@mev.org.uk)**

**Web: [www.mev.org.uk](http://www.mev.org.uk)**

