

# LSE Volunteers

Celebrating volunteering and fundraising at LSE in 2011-12



# Introduction

We are delighted to be celebrating volunteering and fundraising at LSE. There is a strong tradition of social awareness and engaging with the wider community at LSE and when students volunteer and fundraise they demonstrate this.

The 2011-12 academic year has seen thousands of hours donated and many thousands of pounds raised for UK registered charities, working in the UK and overseas. We asked some of our students and the charities they worked with about what volunteering and fundraising has meant for them.

We hope you enjoy reading about it as much as we enjoyed making it happen.



**David Coles**  
LSE Volunteer Coordinator



**Jen Wilkins**  
RAG President 2011-12

## Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers

The Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers is at the forefront of LSE's engagement with the charity sector and aims to be the hub of volunteering on campus. Each year we help hundreds of students donate thousands of hours to good causes locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2011-12 we have seen a huge amount of interest from students who want to get involved in volunteering. LSE students have completed a range of roles that include mentoring, campaigning, fundraising, marketing, research and many others! We've also seen the launch of the LSE wide Volunteer Pledge, run the largest LSE Volunteering Fair to date and hosted an event celebrating the commitment of LSE students to volunteering and fundraising.

We've also had fantastic feedback from the organisations we work with about the quality of work completed by LSE students, something the School should be very proud of.

**Overall the 2011-12 academic year has been incredibly exciting with a huge amount achieved.**





## LSE Volunteer Pledge

The London School of Economics and Political Science pledges to encourage volunteering amongst its students. The Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers and Students' Union will continue to work in partnership to further develop student volunteering as an integral part of student life.

Volunteering offers benefits to our students and the local community in line with the School's values and commitments. By volunteering students can engage with the wider world, support the environment and gain new skills to compete in a rapidly changing job market.

## LSESU RAG – Supporting and Facilitating Student Fundraising

RAG stands for Raising and Giving and we're the official fundraising body of LSE Students' Union. We've only been going for a few years but we're constantly building and we've raised thousands of pounds for many charities since we were set up.

We fundraise throughout the year with events such as the Freshers Ball, Battle of the Halls, Sky Dive, Hitch Hike, RAG Gets Lost and lots of RAG Raids. Then there's RAG Week – a whole week dedicated to raising money!

system enabling all students to vote for our three charities, set up termly meetings with other fundraising groups and started our brand new weekly column in The Beaver.

This year we also set up some exciting new initiatives. We introduced an online voting

**It has been a tiring year but worth every second of it!**

# Volunteering

**Eric Mtungwazi**  
Recruitment Manager  
City Year London



City Year is one of London's leading youth and education charities specialising in tutoring, mentoring and providing positive role models for children from deprived communities in London. Their graduate volunteers dedicate a year to serving full-time in schools where they help to improve: pupil behaviour, attendance and offer intensive one-to-one support to nudge children to focus on their learning and curriculum performance. In addition, City Year provides opportunities for undergraduate volunteers to join the cause for a day and help at one-off community action day projects that target neglected areas and turn them into brighter, safer and more cheerful places for people to use.

Eric, City Year's Recruitment Manager, says, "LSE volunteers have made a considerable impact both as part of our full time programme and during our community action days this academic year. We have four LSE alumni on our full time programme and by the end of the academic year they would have dedicated 3,750 hours to supporting young pupils in school. We have also attracted 21 one-off student volunteers, both undergraduate and postgraduate, contributing a combined total of over 756 volunteering hours transforming and rejuvenating local community spaces."

*"LSE volunteers have made a considerable impact both as part of our full time programme and during our community action days this academic year."*

Eric Mtungwazi, City Year



**Laura Reynolds**  
**Community Programmes Manager**  
**Coin Street Community Builders**

Coin Street Community Builders is a social enterprise and development trust which seeks to make London's South Bank a better place in which to live, to work and to visit. Coin Street involves volunteers in a range of roles and activities. They have volunteers who help with their youth activities, holiday club, nursery and family support sessions as well as volunteers engaged in an on-going heritage project.

Laura, the Community Programme Manager says that, "We have had a number of excellent volunteers from LSE who have been really committed to helping Coin Street meet its aims. One volunteer helped run our monthly film club for local residents and several others helped make decisions and volunteered as part of our community based heritage project. However the biggest impact has probably been made through the volunteers who help with our youth club sessions as they help to facilitate activities and build positive relationships with the young people. We have a volunteer from LSE who is still volunteering even though he finished university several years ago!"



"At Morgan Stanley corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a big part of the culture of the organisation. Helping the communities in which we operate and trying to make a difference is good for our business. Morgan Stanley employees enjoy – and get a lot back – from being actively involved in the local community. For students to engage with their local community whilst studying for their degree is considered of great value at Morgan Stanley as shown in our Community Impact Challenge launched in 2011, where students participated in projects for local charities making a difference to their communities, strengthening the links between universities and local organisations, and helping the participants develop new skills."

Eleni Antoniou,  
Morgan Stanley



**Rachel Reid**  
**Education Worker**  
**IntoUniversity**

IntoUniversity is an educational charity providing local learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve. They work with the Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers to recruit and train volunteers to two main strands of the IntoUniversity programme; Academic Support and Mentoring.

“LSE volunteers are primarily mentors at our organisation and in this way have a really positive impact on the young people and children we work with,” says Rachel Reid, Education Worker at IntoUniversity. “Mentees



look up to their mentors as role models who can support them with their personal development, boost their confidence and help them to learn new skills. Without university students who volunteer to be mentors we wouldn't be able to run our mentoring scheme. Some LSE volunteers are tutors at our Academic Support and encourage students to complete their homework, coursework and revision, help them to develop their study and communication skills and also act as a positive role model.”

*“Volunteers are an integral part of IntoUniversity and we greatly appreciate the support of past and current LSE volunteers and the impact they have.”*

Rachel Reid, IntoUniversity

# MyBnk

## Mike Mompi Head of Innovation MyBnk

MyBnk is an award-winning social enterprise/charity providing young people with opportunities to build the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to manage their money effectively and make enterprising choices throughout their lives.

LSE volunteers were involved with MyBnk as part-time interns through a programme sponsored by Morgan Stanley and facilitated by Three Hands. It was in-depth, involved, and impactful. The LSE student's specific task was to get involved in the development and refinement of the educational game, MySA, and help MyBnk prepare for the launch.

Mike Mompi, Head of Innovation at MyBnk says, "We certainly consider the project undertaken by the LSE students as a success. Some of the highlights included:

- Promoting the MyBnk brand through various tech events and competitions such as the 'Random Hacks of Kindness' event.
- Creating awareness among the tech community on the real problem of financial illiteracy among the youth.
- MyBnk being recognised globally and solutions now used to enhance educational impact and delivery.
- The relationship built with Morgan Stanley and LSE."

*"I come from a software development background so personally it has been rewarding, both intellectually and emotionally. The smiles from the young people during the yAP testing session was priceless!"*

Nikhil Singh, MyBnk volunteer



# REACHOUT!

*The Mentoring Charity*

## Frances Blackwell Programme Manager and Volunteer Manager ReachOut!

ReachOut! recruits over 200 volunteers each year to become mentors to disadvantaged young people in London aged 10 to 15. Volunteer mentors meet with their mentees each week to help them learn to take part in group activities, develop positive character traits and form positive relationships with the other children and mentors around them. Mentors and mentees also spend time working one-to-one on numeracy and literacy activities as well as sharing experiences, advice and aspirations.

Frances, the Programme and Volunteer Manager at ReachOut! says that, "Students from LSE make fantastic mentors; we have found them to be reliable, competent and have the ability to use their initiative. Furthermore, many are international students which enables them to bring a whole range of experiences to our team of mentors."



"Teach First values volunteering because of the skills that are utilised and developed through the experience. At Teach First, we look for eight competencies during our recruitment process, as these help us to determine a candidate's suitability and potential to be an impactful teacher. These competencies include leadership, resilience, problem-solving – all skills that we often find volunteering can provide good evidence of."

Eleanor Pilc, Teach First







**Lindsey Graver**  
**Regional Project Coordinator**  
**READ International**

READ International is a student-led organisation and volunteers are at the heart of what they do. They have teams at universities across the country led by four Project Leaders who work throughout the academic year to collect disused textbooks from schools in the area and raise funds to send them to Tanzania. The volunteers have a wide range of tasks ranging from sorting and boxing books to running fundraising events.

Lindsey, READ's Regional Project Coordinator explains that, "Our LSE volunteers, like those at our other university book projects, have helped us to collect the secondary school textbooks which we give to students in Tanzania. Without the efforts of our volunteers we would not be able to collect the books at so many different sites across the country. They also work hard to raise the necessary funds to ship the books to Tanzania."

*"Without the efforts of our volunteers we would not be able to collect the books at so many different sites across the country."*

Lindsey Graver, READ International



# REPRIEVE

**Diana Goldshtein**  
Government (MSc in Comparative Politics)  
Translator on Ukrainian case  
Reprieve (UK Human Rights Charity)

Reprieve uses the law to enforce the human rights of prisoners, from death row to Guantánamo Bay. They investigate, litigate and educate, working on the frontline, providing legal support to prisoners unable to pay for it themselves.

"I received an email from LSE Volunteer Centre stating that Reprieve UK was looking for a native Ukrainian speaker experienced in human rights activism. I immediately dropped Reprieve an email with a short cover letter and CV. They approved my application soon after, since they urgently needed help on Ukrainian death row case.

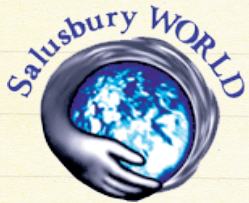
"What I really admire about my volunteer placement is that Reprieve has an extremely helpful and cohesive team. I believe it is most important to have support and a friendly atmosphere when you are providing legal support to the prisoners and campaigning on the death row cases. Work at Reprieve requires full dedication and commitment since the organisation is struggling for the lives of prisoners sentenced to death.

"After I successfully organised the official visit of the Reprieve representative to Ukraine I was offered to expand my Reprieve activities and join the team working on Polish cases. Thus, I still volunteer for Reprieve being in charge of various death row cases."

"I think that volunteering experience is crucial for UK employers since it proves candidate's dedication, social responsibility and leadership potential."

Diana Goldshtein, Reprieve volunteer





**Eleanor Johnston**  
**Geography**  
**Student Mentor**  
**Salusbury WORLD at Capital**  
**City Academy**

Salusbury WORLD helps refugees in the UK by providing advice, education, training and clubs. They play a vital role in enabling refugee children and adults to rebuild their lives.

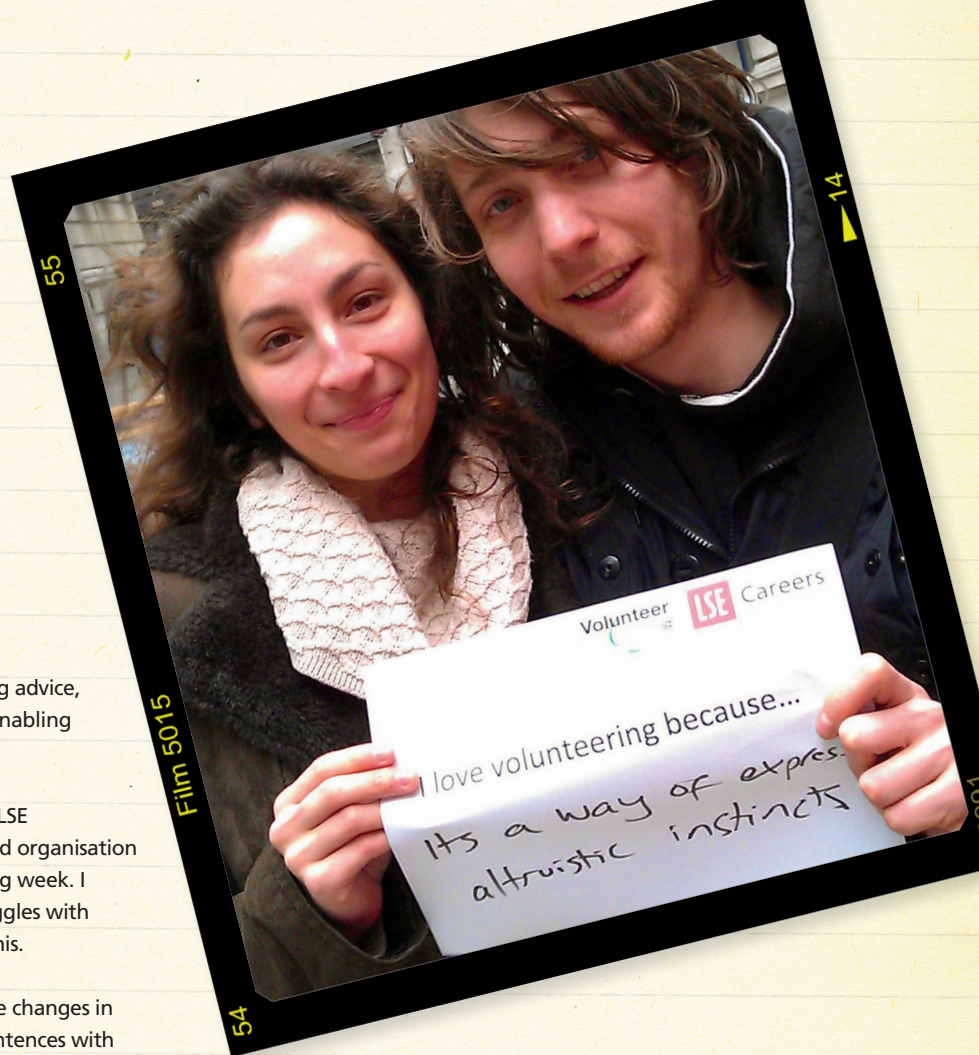
"I heard about the volunteer opportunity through the LSE Volunteering Fair in October 2011. It seemed like a good organisation so I went along to an information evening the following week. I currently work with a 19 year old Somali girl, who struggles with grammar and sentence formation so needs help with this.

"I think my favourite part of my placement is seeing the changes in the student. Last week she finally began to start her sentences with capital letters when she was typing – a bit of a breakthrough! She also takes more of an interest in her coursework now – she emails work for me to look at two or three times a week now (which she never did at the beginning). And the gratitude – you actually feel like you are making a difference!

"I have always volunteered as I think it is an important way for fortunate people to give something back. From working in the Oxfam bookshop to this current mentoring scheme the sense of enjoyment I get from meeting new people, and sometimes, making a real difference is incomparable."

*"The sense of enjoyment I get from meeting new people and making a real difference is incomparable."*

Eleanor Johnston, Salusbury WORLD volunteer



# Raising and Giving



## Francine Heggie Senior Events Officer Action Against Hunger

Action Against Hunger is a global humanitarian organisation committed to ending world hunger and works to save the lives of malnourished children while providing communities with access to safe water and sustainable solutions to hunger.

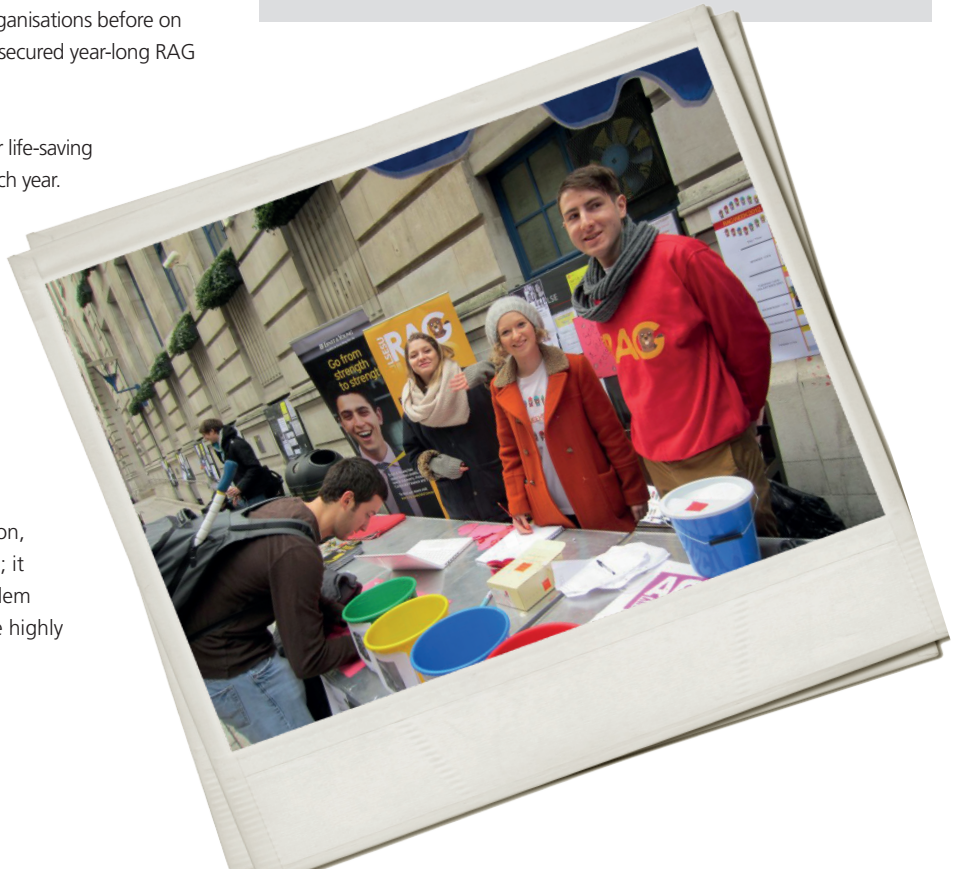
Francine Heggie says, "We've worked with RAG organisations before on an ad-hoc basis, but this is the first year that we've secured year-long RAG partnerships, which is very exciting!"

"LSESU RAG's support will enable us to continue our life-saving work, reaching over six million people worldwide each year. 90 per cent of the funds we receive go directly to our programmes and services, providing life-saving nutritional, water and sanitation and livelihoods programmes. The partnership has also raised awareness of our work, which will further help to raise our profile and hopefully introduce new supporters to the charity.

"Fundraising experience demonstrates to a potential employer that you are proactive with a range of skills, including planning and organisation, initiative, creativity, and a target-driven approach; it requires persistence, drive and the ability to problem solve or adapt to circumstances – all of which are highly desirable and transferable in the job market!"

"Bain highly values volunteering work done by students. We believe it demonstrates great initiative where students have used their time wisely and in a way that will improve and generate new valuable skills."

Tanith Archibald, Bain & Company





**Claire May**  
**Fundraising Officer**  
**NAT (National AIDS Trust)**

The National Aids Trust is the UK's leading charity dedicated to transforming society's response to HIV. They provide fresh thinking, expertise and practical resources. They champion the rights of people living with HIV and campaign for change.

Claire May, Fundraising Officer, explains that, "Working with LSE is the first time NAT have collaborated with a RAG and we have been very excited about being involved in all LSESU RAG's hard work!

"As a small charity with a large agenda for change the help LSE gives us is invaluable. LSE's help will contribute to our vital policy and campaigning work: preventing the spread of HIV, protecting the rights of people living with HIV and ensuring they have the treatment, care and support they need; educating the public and key policy/decision makers and fighting HIV stigma and prejudice. LSE's support will help ensure that we can continue to improve awareness and education so that people know how to protect themselves from HIV infection and people living with HIV are diagnosed early, treated with respect, dignity and justice, and receive the highest standard of care."



*"As a small charity with a large agenda for change the help LSE gives us is invaluable."*

Claire May, NAT



**Alice McDonnell**  
**Corporate and Donor Fundraising Assistant**  
**War Child**

War Child provide life-changing support to the most vulnerable children whose families, communities and schools have been torn apart by war.

“As a small charity, War Child is hugely reliant on our committed supporters, of which LSESU RAG is now one,” says Alice McDonnell, Corporate & Donor Fundraising Assistant. “The events that the RAG team at LSE have put on to raise money for War Child are incredibly impressive. On top of RAG week and other events held, the sky dive in February has already raised over £2,000 and this figure keeps increasing. Just £90 is all it takes to run our vital Night Ambulance for an evening on the streets of Kinshasa, DRC, providing essential medical and social care to street children. It is evident that the huge amount of money LSESU RAG is raising for War Child will have a huge and tangible impact on the children we work with.

“Fundraising requires commitment, enthusiasm and innovation. These are three things that employers continuously look for in candidates. In the current economic climate, young people need skills and experience that help them stand out from the crowd – fundraising gives you these.”



“Marakon of course looks well on volunteering – it develops a lot of the qualities we find in our top candidates and demonstrates you are keen on building yourself up as a person beyond just work experience and qualifications.”

Joseph Poore, Marakon



The Volunteer Centre runs many events throughout the year including talks and seminars from a wide range of charities. If you have specific questions about volunteering you can also arrange one-to-one appointments with the Volunteer Coordinator. You can also find a wide range of opportunities on LSE Careers online vacancy board.

We are always looking to expand the number of organisations that we work with so if your charity is looking for help on a regular basis, with a short-term project or for one-day events, we would love to hear from you.

For more information about volunteering at LSE contact:

**David Coles, LSE Volunteer Coordinator**

**Direct Line: 020 7955 6519**

**volunteer@lse.ac.uk**

**www.lse.ac.uk/volunteer**

**Twitter: @LSEvolunteer**

**Facebook.com/lsevolunteercentre**

Keeping up with LSESU RAG is easy. Find out everything you need to know on our website, sign up to our newsletter and read about what we get up to in our weekly Beaver column. We're always on the look out for new fundraisers so don't hesitate to get in touch.

**www.lsesurag.org**

**su.rag@lse.ac.uk**

**Twitter: @LSESURAG**

**Facebook.com/LSESURAG**



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