

LSE Volunteers

Celebrating volunteering and fundraising at LSE in 2012/13



Volunteer Centre



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 2012/13 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



Ben Sutcliffe
RAG President 2012/13



LSE Volunteer Pledge

The London School of Economics and Political Science pledges to encourage volunteering amongst its students. The Volunteer Centre at LSE Careers and Student 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.

Volunteering

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 2012/13 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 have been able to fund student-led projects, run a photography competition, invite over 30 charities on to campus for our annual Volunteering Fair and host an event celebrating the commitment of LSE students to volunteering and fundraising. We also launched our blog and have had almost 7,000 page views since October 2012, something we're very proud of.

We are particularly pleased with our continued relationship with LSE SU RAG, having worked on several joint projects in 2012/13.

Most importantly we've had fantastic feedback from the organisations we work with about their relationship with the Volunteer Centre and the quality of work completed by LSE students, something the School should be very proud of.

The 2012/13 academic year has been incredibly exciting and we are really looking forward to building on these successes next year.

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Twitter: [@lsevolunteering](https://twitter.com/lsevolunteering)

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Susannah Clark
Programme Director
Action Tutoring

Action Tutoring is an ambitious new social initiative and registered charity, providing free tuition to GCSE pupils in inner-city London schools, working with volunteer tutors. Over the past year, through the Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers, they have recruited LSE students to complete one-to-one tutoring sessions for pupils preparing for GCSEs in English and Maths.

Susannah Clark, Programme Director at Action Tutoring, says, "Our work wouldn't be possible without the support of our fantastic volunteers and we always appreciate the fact that LSE volunteers are intelligent, reliable and keen to work with our pupils."

Susannah also highlights the excellent development opportunities for students who take part, "Volunteering with Action Tutoring is a great way to gain work experience, particularly if students are interested in teaching, but more widely employers really value seeing volunteer work on people's CVs, whatever their career path. We also offer the opportunity to take on leadership responsibility through our lead tutor role, which can be particularly attractive to employers."

"LSE volunteers are intelligent, reliable and keen to work with our pupils."

Susannah Clark, Action Tutoring



"Giving back is one of Morgan Stanley's Core Values; we are committed to do our share as a responsible corporation to improve the quality of life in our local communities, and employee engagement is a critical component to our efforts. When recruiting, we look for potential employees who relate to and share our core values; volunteering through your careers centre is a very effective way of showing this."

Kate Hicks, Morgan Stanley



Eric Mtungwazi
Recruitment Manager
City Year

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. They recruit passionate and inspirational young people for a year of full-time volunteering in schools and local communities. They are one of the patrons of LSE Careers.

During the Lent term 2012/13, City Year piloted an innovative competition designed to give disadvantaged young people an insight into one of the UK's top universities. The competition, a partnership between City Year, LSE, Deutsche Bank and the King Solomon Academy, Westminster, challenged LSE students to design an engaging after-school masterclass to broaden the horizons and enhance the learning for KSA pupils.

Eric, City Year's Head of Recruitment, explains, "Part of the event's aims were to help develop a link between KSA, a school with high numbers of disadvantaged children, and the LSE. Our long-term vision is that working with top universities on collaborations like this will create more triggers for school children from disadvantaged backgrounds to have high aspirations of going onto higher education."

All of the LSE students we worked with on this project delivered outstanding educational workshops that left a lasting impression on the KSA students. We hope to continue working with more LSE students in similar future initiatives."

"All of the LSE students we worked with on this project delivered outstanding educational workshops."

Eric Mtungwazi, City Year



"Volunteering is a great way to develop your network of contacts and build relationships with potential employers."
Eric Mtungwazi, City Year

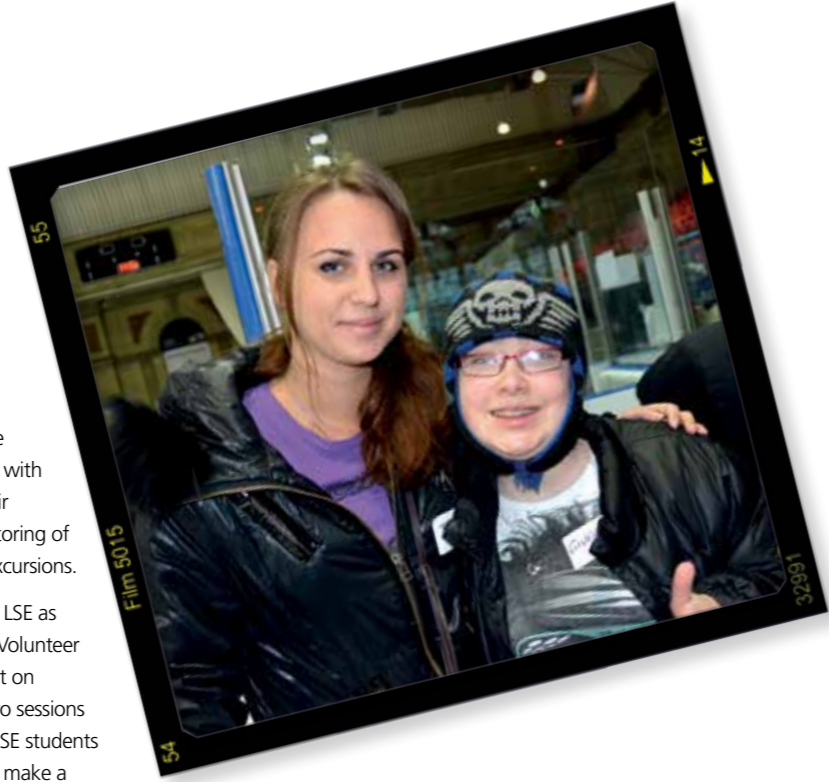


bringing one-to-one fun to disabled kids.

Scott McDonald
London Coordinator
KEEN London

KEEN London is the only charity in London which offers one-to-one sports and recreational opportunities for children and young adults with special needs (their "athletes"), and their siblings, at no cost to their families and caregivers. Volunteers are involved in one-to-one mentoring of disabled children on Sundays in terms times at KEEN and also on excursions.

Scott, KEEN's London Coordinator, says, "We recruit students from LSE as we are always looking for high calibre students to help us and the Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers certainly provides these. We rely 100 per cent on volunteers, each Sunday we have between 50-65 people at our two sessions and the volunteers' impact on our children is invaluable. Over ten LSE students have volunteered at least one session and five come regularly, they make a significant impact on our work. We feel that they gain from these experiences as well as it provides "real" experiences in a vocational setting. This is ideal for learning additional, non-academic attributes."



"LSE students have made a significant impact on our work."

Scott McDonald, London Coordinator

"Volunteering is definitely of benefit to an employer; skills that can be acquired include time management practice, interpersonal experience and communication. Volunteering also demonstrates an applicant's or employee's interests outside of academia and work, providing an insight into their own experiences and motivations, and ultimately shows what they could bring to a company or role besides formal qualifications."

Louise Taggart, AKE Group



Anna Burton
Head of UK Programmes
READ International

READ International are a student-led education charity, their mission is to take text books that are no longer needed in the comparatively affluent UK to schools in Tanzania. Their network of university volunteers, known as Project Leaders, collect these books from local schools, sort and box those that are up-to-date and relevant, and fundraise to cover the cost of shipping them to Tanzania. Each summer their student volunteers then self-fund themselves to travel to Tanzania and use these books to create libraries in secondary schools; working closely with the students and teachers in each school. They have been successfully working at LSE for several years now and are one of the patrons of LSE Careers.

Anna, Head of UK programmes says that, "Over the past 12 months LSE volunteers have fundraised over £1,000 and boxed over 5,500 books that have contributed to the creation of 15 libraries in Tanzanian secondary schools. One of the LSE volunteers, Yemi Apampa, also led a successful project in a local sixth form that led to them winning our award for Best Young Leaders Project and the volunteer winning our award for Best Youth Engagement Project Leader."

Yemi has since gone on to work for Debate Mate and he fed back several positives about his time volunteering with READ, "READ had a great effect on me in many ways. Volunteering for READ made me realise how important it is and how much more rewarding and motivating it is to do something for and act on causes you truly believe in – as opposed to just talking about them!

My experience as a volunteer project leader for READ helped to get me my full time job as "Assistant Programme Director" for the UK-based educational charity, Debate Mate."

"Over the past 12 months LSE volunteers have fundraised over £1,000 and boxed over 5,500 books to be sent to Tanzania."

Anna Burton, Head of UK Programmes





Cat Rawsthorne
BSc in Government
Hub Leader 2012/13 for FoodCycle

FoodCycle, a patron of LSE Careers, aim to combine volunteers, surplus food and a free kitchen space to create nutritious meals for people affected by food poverty in the UK and create positive social change in the community. The LSE FoodCycle team has been serving up hearty meals since May 2009.

Cat Rawsthorne, a third year BSc in Government student is the Hub Leader for 2012/13 and helps manage the many volunteers that they recruit from the LSE student body. "Over the past year we have worked with over 100 LSE students. They have served over 1,600 delicious meals, using over 1,200kg of food, all of which would have otherwise gone to waste."

One of the volunteers who Cat manages, Pinar Ozdemir, says, "I firstly heard about FoodCycle at the LSE Volunteering Fair. I saw their mascot and I immediately liked it! Their mission is amazing. It is such a great thing to collect and cook food for people in the community. I would wholeheartedly advise international students to join them."

"Volunteering provides unique opportunities to take on responsibilities that give people confidence in themselves and their ability to succeed in the workplace."

Andrew Boor, FoodCycle

"Over the past year we have worked with over 100 LSE students. They have served over 1,600 delicious meals, using over 1,200kg of food, all of which would have otherwise gone to waste."



Bianca Nobilo
MSc in Comparative Politics
(Conflict Studies)
Founder and Chairperson of Student Heart Health

Bianca founded Student Heart Health after several people close to her were affected by heart conditions. She registered the charity in 2011 and is now the Executive Chairperson. The aim of the charity is to promote and encourage cardiovascular health in the student population across the UK. They aim to advance this mission through education, advocacy and research for current and future students whose health they seek to protect and advance.

Over the past 12 months, amongst other successes, Student Heart Health organised cardiac screenings (ECGs and echocardiograms) for 200 students to detect potentially fatal heart conditions such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Of the 200, eight were referred to specialists for further testing. She has received feedback from many young people saying that they didn't realise the potential problems they were facing and how they will need to reassess their lifestyles.

Bianca is a Student Volunteering Ambassador of the Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers and was also nominated and shortlisted for the NUS/ Student Hubs Student Volunteer of the Year Award, a continuation of the prestigious Matt Spencer Award. Along with these she received funding from the Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers to develop the Student Heart Health website. Bianca says, "Getting involved with the Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers has been a phenomenal way to meet young people who are committed to volunteering and making an impact. The student volunteer award nomination was a total surprise and I was very honoured."



Aidan Bruynseels
First year MSc in Management student
ICS volunteer with Progressio

Aidan volunteered with Progressio, a UK register charity, on the International Citizen Service programme in Zimbabwe. He is also a Student Volunteering Ambassador for the Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers.

“Our assigned targets for our three months in Zimbabwe were to first of all, concentrate on HIV/AIDS education within local primary and secondary schools. Secondly promote the testing of HIV/AIDS in the sexually active age group of 18-25 year old males. In order to achieve these goals as a group we organised four main events:

- 1 A community football and netball tournament with HIV/AIDS testing and counselling offered
- 2 Weekly workshops in two local schools following an HIV/AIDS theme as well as general health issues
- 3 A faith forum for youth in the area to communicate some of the beliefs and the variances in views amongst different faiths with regards to prevention of HIV/AIDS
- 4 Engaged with the local community on issues such as rubbish collection and environmental awareness as well as assisting with local support groups.

All these goals were achieved with active participation in local schools: over 500 attendees were at the sports tournament and 40 people were tested. A local youth conference within the three local churches was organised.



The experiences you have when volunteering are some of the most humbling and challenging in comparison to everyday life in the UK. Utilities you take for granted, like water and electricity, are never a given in developing countries. However, the satisfaction you get from helping just one or two people or opening someone’s mind is unquantifiable. Not only is the programme beneficial for those wishing to experience development work, but also to those who may want to experience another way of life and African culture. All this whilst improving teamwork skills and helping empower communities so they can help themselves.”



Becka Sunter
BA Geography graduate 2012
Mentor at The Arbour

Becka graduated from LSE in July with a BA in Geography and is now employed by LSE Careers as Employer Enquiries Assistant and Graduate Labour Market Research Intern. She has volunteered for various organisations since 2007, mainly working with female youth. In 2012 she won the Jack Petchey Award for her volunteering and was also shortlisted for the inaugural LSE Volunteer of the Year award. Since November 2012 she has been mentoring a migrant woman who had recently moved from Turkey and needed support in accessing local services through The Arbour's Migrant Women Mentoring and Social Inclusion programme.

“The first few months of my mentoring experience have been challenging, rewarding, fun and everything in-between. I get on very well with my mentee – we are the same age, share a love of food, a penchant for English tea – and we agree that Turkish coffee is far too strong to be consumed at almost any hour of the day! We usually meet at a café in Hackney on a Saturday or Sunday morning depending on each other’s weekend plans. Usually we just have a chat over a cup of tea (or two!) as it’s quite nice to be able to speak about anything and everything rather than setting prescriptive topics to stick to for the sessions. Saying that, we spent a really fun hour together a few weeks ago looking at various maps of London and figuring out places we might like to visit together over the coming months. It is also really nice to be able to situate Hackney in the context of wider London and to discuss the diversity and cosmopolitan nature of London with her.

I think women’s rights are really important and are something I’m particularly passionate about. The experience of mentoring has reaffirmed these beliefs. I am particularly enjoying building up a friendship with my mentee and seeing her confidence grow.”



“I am particularly enjoying building up a friendship with my mentee and seeing her confidence grow.”

Becka Sunter, Mentor at The Arbour

Raising and Giving

RAG is the official fundraising arm of LSE Students' Union. Set up in 2007 we're run entirely by student volunteers. So far we've fundraised hundreds of thousands of pounds for charities that work in a huge range of sectors. Standing still has never been enough for us though.

This year we've achieved a huge amount. We've had incredibly successful events: from first year favourite "Freshers' Ball" to the brand new "The Winter Postgraduate". Our parties are always popular and a much loved part of the LSE student experience.

We've also challenged students to complete the incredible for charity. Along with our traditional raft of Challenge events, this year we've also challenged students to compete in Tough Guy – billed as the world's safest most dangerous event! – and to climb Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa!

Our relationship with Volunteer Centre @ LSE Careers has also taken a huge leap forward. The success of City Year's Next Generation Challenge is just a sample of what we can achieve. We're looking forward to working with other LSE divisions too.

Most importantly we've been making changes to ensure that all the good work we've achieved this year can not only be kept up, but further improved upon. We've redesigned the structure of our Executive Committee to tackle the problems we've faced and we've been able to move RAG right in to the heart of our Students' Union.

We've had a fantastic year, but we can't wait to see what we'll achieve in the future.

llesurag.org
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Twitter: @LSESURAG
Facebook.com/LSESURAG



Find Your Feet

Find Your Feet are a small organisation that works in some of the most remote areas of India, Nepal, Malawi and Zimbabwe. They enable poor rural families to grow enough food so they don't have to go hungry, to strengthen their voice so they can speak out against injustice and to earn enough money so they can find their feet.

Jessica Ridgewell, Communications and Events Officer said: "We were delighted to be chosen as a partner for LSE SU RAG. The University's commitment to global issues is highly commendable and we are honoured that students chose to raise funds for our vital work.

The partnership has provided us with a unique opportunity to raise awareness and vital funds; with just £165 raised by LSE students we could provide a farmer in Zimbabwe with the training they need to improve their harvest, and go on to share their knowledge with 20 other families, so they too can produce more.

Our partnership with LSE has also encouraged our current supporters, so much so that one of our supporters, an LSE Alumnus, pledged to match every £1 that is raised, meaning the impact of LSE SU's fundraising efforts will be doubled, and we can reach twice as many families."

"Thank you for helping to make a real difference to the future of the families we work with."

Jessica Ridgewell, Find Your Feet



In freezing-cold January, 15 LSE students took on "Tough Guy", a gruelling 15km assault course, to support Find Your Feet.



The Haven

The Haven provides, completely free of charge, a wide range of therapies which help people to deal with the physical and emotional side effects of breast cancer. Specialist nurses and experts in nutrition, exercise and emotional support provide tailor-made programmes for each person who comes through our doors. There are three Havens across the UK; LSE has been supporting the Haven in Fulham, London.

Emma Payne, Community Fundraising Executive said: "Based in Fulham we help hundreds of people suffering from breast cancer across the capital; however we are still a relatively small and unknown charity."

We need all the help and support we can get to make sure people know that they can come to us if they are diagnosed. It costs approximately £1,000 to put someone through a programme of care at The Haven. We do not receive any Government funding and rely solely on donations therefore we are extremely grateful for LSE SU RAG for choosing our cause and supporting those suffering from breast cancer.

Our partnership with LSE SU RAG is our first with a student RAG and it has been fantastic in both spreading awareness and helping us raise funds to keep our centre going."



RAG Week 2013! finished with children's TV star Dave Benson-Phillips gunging famous SU names.

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

Claire May, NAT



Richard House Children's Hospice

Richard House Children's Hospice, based in Newham, east London, is a purpose-built children's hospice caring for children from across the Capital, Essex, Kent and the Home Counties. The core purpose of our hospice is to accompany families caring for children with life-limiting, life-threatening and complex healthcare needs, during their journey through life to death. The aim is to create positive experiences along the way that become good memories for the future.

Hannah Bosley, Community Fundraiser said: "When we heard that LSE SU had chosen Richard House as one of their charities for the 2012/13 academic year, we were delighted."

"LSE SU RAG have not only helped to raise essential funds for the Richard House but they have also raised awareness of the hospice amongst so many new people from different walks of life. This ultimately has helped us to reach out to more families who could benefit from our services."

The funds that are raised as part of RAG, will help us to provide fun filled activities for not only the children who access Richard House, but also for their siblings, in a safe and secure environment.

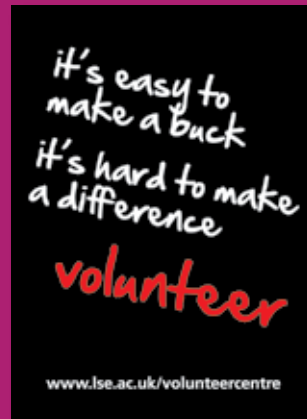
The LSE RAG team are made up of extremely committed and professional individuals and I feel honoured to have had the pleasure of working with them throughout the year."

"The LSE SU RAG team are made up of extremely committed and professional individuals"

Hannah Bosley, Richard House



Our infamous annual "Hitch" set off raising money for Richard House. Participants raced from London to Prague spending nothing along the way!



lse.ac.uk/volunteercentre