



CASE STUDY



Volunteering Matters - Evolution - Ritu Srivastava

UNITED KINGDOM

Evolution is a volunteering programme for refugees, asylum seekers and migrant women who have recently moved to the UK, based in Ipswich. Through volunteering and support the women learn basic numeracy, literacy and language skills to help them integrate into the community. They make friends, grow in confidence and increase their employability skills.

Volunteering Matters, formerly known as CSV, is a national charity leading UK volunteering in policy and practice.

We know that people are experiencing social isolation and huge inequalities in their communities. We also know that by investing in people through volunteering we can reduce inequalities and isolation to build stronger more inclusive communities.



By focussing on the needs of 4 groups of people; disabled people, older people, young people and families we inspire our committed and ambitious volunteers to power change in their communities. We do this by delivering targeted, innovative and professional programmes nationwide. Our vision is of a society where everyone can participate to build strong and inclusive communities. Our mission is to enable people to take an active role in their communities.



WHAT ARE THE LOCAL SOCIAL REALITIES?

Female refugees, asylum seekers and migrant woman who have recently moved to the UK, based in Ipswich, who are without basic numeracy, numeracy and language skills which poses difficulties in helping them integrate into the community

WHAT ARE THE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT/SERVICE?

Target groups/users

Female refugees, asylum seekers and migrant woman

Principles

Reduction in exclusion, isolation. Increased skills, confidence and independence- leading to potential future employment

Drivers

This project was developed due to the need in the area.

Outcome

Case study Ritu Srivastavan moved to the UK from India when her husband was transferred with work in 2006. The change in lifestyle was a shock for her and she felt very isolated to begin with. She found out about Volunteering Matters through an ad in the paper and decided to visit the office in Ipswich where she met with a career advisor who suggested she undertake some volunteer work.



"I worked as a volunteer for many years and later Volunteering Matters gave me the opportunity attain Information Advice and Guidance Level 4 and Level 6.

Now I am a qualified Career Guidance Practitioner. I am still doing volunteer work in my extra time in

Volunteering Matters with my duties and responsibilities of my job.

I was really struggling when I came to the UK, but the support of Volunteering Matters and their fantastic projects has changed my life for the better."

CONTACT

gauri.desai@volunteeringmatters.org.uk

Tel: +44 01473 418031

www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk





solidar

Rue du Commerce | Handelsstraat 22
1000 Brussels
Belgium
T +32 2 500 10 20
F +32 2 500 10 30

Twitter: @SOLIDAR_EU
Facebook: SOLIDAR
www.solidar.org
solidar@solidar.org



SOLIDAR, together with our national members and partners, has developed 17 case studies in 2015, presenting innovative, effective, sustainable and tailor made models to promote social inclusion, the social economy and quality job creation by adapting a social investment approach. In their daily work, SOLIDAR members and partners anticipate new or unmet needs of socio-economically vulnerable people and empower them to actively participate in society and to access the labour market.

These case studies gather strong evidence of the social impact of the activities undertaken by our members and partners to help Member States making progress towards the achievement of the social and employment objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the implementation of the Social Investment Package.

SOLIDAR is a European network of membership based Civil Society Organisations who gather several millions of citizens throughout Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the values of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the three main policy sectors; social affairs, lifelong learning and international cooperation.



This publication has been produced with the financial support of the European Union. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.