



LeedsforLife
*citizenship
awards*
2011



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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Introduction

The University of Leeds and Leeds University Union jointly support over 2,000 students who make an extraordinary contribution to society at a local, national and international level. This booklet covers the nominations for the 2011 Leeds for Life Citizenship Awards and provides an insight into the breadth of inspiring projects undertaken by our students.



Community Award



Outdoor Mix

Jemima Heap and Natalie Tui

This Action project takes children aged 9-11 on weekend residential trips. The children are referred by Leeds Children's Charity – all have suffered either from poverty, neglect, abuse, learning difficulties or are themselves young carers, and do not otherwise have the opportunity for fun weekends away. Student volunteers organise the trips and activities, and act as excellent role models. Jemima and Natalie have co-ordinated the project this year and secured a £5,000 grant to make the weekends even better.

Law's Community Work

Travis Finlayson, David McCluskey, Jayne Murphy, Dashini Ramrous and Amarjit Rayat

Five Law students have been nominated for their work as presenters, ambassadors, e-mentors and advisors in a range of programmes run by the School of Law. These include Street Law, a legal literacy scheme aimed at raising awareness of legal rights and responsibilities within the community; the Pathways to Law programme, widening participation in Law by non-traditional groups through aspiration-raising; the Advice Centre; and pro bono opportunities, including at the Involve Centre in Hunslet.



Social Responsibility in Action

Jennifer Shaw

This is a partnership project between the University of Leeds, Leeds City Council and private sector employers Santander and Pinsent Masons. The project enabled students to make a difference in their local community whilst exploring the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The project combined a CSR evening involving an academic lecture and employer presentations, followed by a student-led volunteering day planting shrubs on Woodhouse Moor. 40 students and 8 private sector employees worked together delivering this project. Jennifer was key, as a team leader, to organising the day, resourcing materials and generally making the event enjoyable for all participants.

Education Award

Student Action for Refugees

Elizabeth Lowenstein

This year STAR under the leadership of Elizabeth, has expanded and are now running four distinct projects, totalling around 280 volunteering hours per week. This includes a French language exchange, two English language classes and a bike project – renovating second-hand bikes for use by local asylum seekers and refugees. STAR's volunteering projects run alongside raising awareness of asylum issues amongst students and the University through the City of Sanctuary campaign.

Student Engagement Project

School Reps

The School Reps system allows students from every school in the University to directly make changes to learning and teaching. By listening to their peers and representing students at meetings with the Union and University, School Reps provide a clear and effective channel of communication between students and staff, ensuring that students have a voice in their education. 54 School Reps have successfully achieved over 170 significant changes throughout this academic year.

Student Mentor

Harriet Endley and Nick Verrill

Harriet and Nick volunteer through the Access Academy at Leeds West Academy, and both have created really positive ongoing relationships with the school. Harriet has provided one-to-one mentoring and classroom support over the last two years, whilst Nick has aided teachers over the past year, and has been of particular help in GCSE History classes.



Leeds for Life Foundation Award

Drug Rehabilitation Research - Nepal

Emma Schroder

In 2010 Emma received a Leeds for Life grant to travel to Nepal and undertake research into service providers' views of drug rehabilitation services. As well as through formal interviews with service providers and former drug addicts, Emma was able to gain both cultural and political insight into the country by staying with a Nepalese family.

Playground Project - Uganda

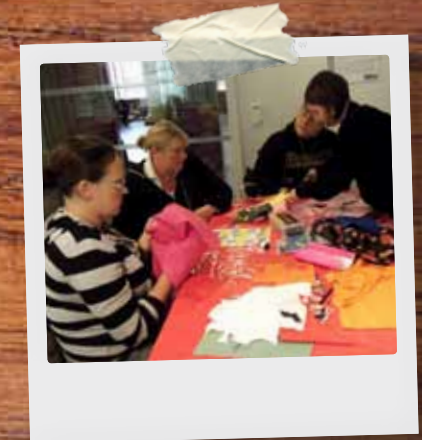
Katie Walsh

Katie used a Leeds for Life grant to help build a playground in Bugembe, Uganda. As well as providing children with a social and recreational outlet, the process of construction and interaction with local people also prompted community groups in the area to develop further projects, to include marginalised street children in Bugembe.

Perceptions of Leprosy - Nepal

Jessica Gutjahr

Jessica used Leeds for Life funding to research perceptions of leprosy in Nepal, where she undertook interviews of both health workers and leprosy patients. In doing so, Jessica developed specific academic skills – such as adapting the course of interviews and understanding barriers to healthcare. She also developed personal skills, including communication, cultural awareness and team work.



Sport and Wellbeing Award

Action Windsurfing

Rahim Kheraj, Harry Roberts and Ben Fisher

This project is aimed at children currently in Year 9 who are thought to be at risk of being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) after the age of eighteen. Pupils at Lawnswood and Abbey Grange schools have been able to try out a fantastic sport and gain a nationally recognised level one qualification in windsurfing.

RAG Bike to Berlin

Laura Evans, Jo Sawkins, Peter Renvoize and Craig McColl

This charity bike ride saw 30 student cyclists travel 550 miles over eight days in April 2011. Participants fundraised individually for the ride, which went from Leeds to Berlin, helping to raise £10,000. This was given to local charity One in a Million, which acts to improve the health and wellbeing of young people in Bradford.

Green Streets

Emma Trevakiss

Green Streets collects and redistributes over 20 tonnes of unwanted household items from students leaving rented accommodation, in order to cut down on waste and landfill. Emma Trevakiss planned a free shop to allow free access to household goods to international students arriving in Leeds in January. Emma organised publicity, donations of items, and recruited other student volunteers to help sort and distribute items.

Project of the Year Award



Everest Base Camp Trek

This new RAG project sees student participants undertake a Himalayan trek as a charity fundraiser. A variety of events held before the trip helped each participant to raise over £800 for beneficiary charity the Child Welfare Scheme in Nepal, which participants will visit to see the organisation's health and education centres.

Looked After Children Mentoring Scheme

This weekly after school club currently supports 14 young people in care. It gives young people one-to-one support, both academic and pastoral, from University of Leeds volunteer mentors, and has also organised day trips and residential weekends. Support from positive role models has helped to raise the aspirations and achievements of young people in care.

Marks in Time

The Marks in Time project made the Marks & Spencer Company Archive accessible to school pupils, community groups and the public. Student volunteers supported this process, using key objects and information from the Archive in a series of interactive activities, as well as helping to build and strengthen partnerships between the M&S Archive, University of Leeds and external organisations.



Outstanding Contribution Award

Jane Mitchell

Hospital - India

Jane used a Leeds for Life grant to spend six weeks in a hospital in Bihar, India. Using medical knowledge gained at Leeds alongside newly-learnt skills, Jane worked in the labour room and nursery, assisting midwives and nursing staff in taking care of newborns immediately after delivery. She also helped with hospital administration and wrote a report on radiation safety.

Harry Coleman

HOMED

HOMED is a student society that supports the homeless in Leeds, through hostel visits and awareness raising. With Harry Coleman as President over the past year HOMED has increased its capacity to support the homeless in Leeds by dramatically increasing its membership, winning funding from a variety of sources, and starting regular visits at a third hostel.

Ben Fisher

Action

As President of community volunteering society Action, Ben has increased the number of projects and volunteering opportunities available to students; he has created partnerships and collaborations with other groups; he has continued to improve Action's ability to safeguard children; and he has led a development plan for Action to continue to progress over the next four years.

Adam Whybro

Looked After Children Mentoring

Adam has volunteered through the Access Academy since his first year. After two successive placements at Cockburn High School, this year he has been a central figure on the Looked After Children mentoring scheme, including supporting several trips and setting up a social network. With Adam's support, his Year 9 mentee has significantly improved both his grades and confidence.





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