

NEWS RELEASE

16th January 2012

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR 10 YOUNG PEOPLE!

Due to start in April 2012, Global Xchange will bring together a team of 10 young people from the boroughs of Hounslow, Ealing, Hillingdon, Slough, Spelthorne, Richmond, Runnymede, South Bucks and Windsor and Maidenhead and 10 young people from Zambia, Southern Africa. This unique opportunity is open to 10 young people aged 18 -22 from the boroughs who will have the chance to spend six months making a real difference in the lives of people in both communities. This is also an excellent opportunity to develop invaluable life skills and have some amazing experiences.

Global Xchange is an international youth and development programme and a partnership between VSO, the British Council, and other partner organisations around the world. Working directly with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Global Xchange is part of the pilot year of International Citizen Service (ICS). This programme in Hounslow is being managed in partnership with PHAB, and funded through corporate sponsors, GlaxoSmithKline, BAA at Heathrow Airport through the Heathrow Community Fund and British Airways.

Global Xchange gives young people the opportunity to work on projects tackling important issues, making an impact overseas as well as back on home soil and works to promote intercultural dialogue between young people from the UK and overseas. Volunteers will also gain invaluable skills such as team work, budget management, event planning and even language skills. The young people will spend 12 weeks in a Zambian community and 12 weeks volunteering in Hounslow from April – October 2012 and will live, learn and volunteer together throughout the exchange.

Hounslow is no stranger to Global Xchange, having been the UK community in exchanges with Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines over the years. This exchange however, differs to previous exchanges where UK volunteers are recruited country-wide as it will only be open to those living locally. Natasha Samuels the Programme Supervisor says, "This is an incredible opportunity for 10 young people from the area to live and volunteer in Zambia for three months as well as making a difference on their doorstep for three months together with young people from Zambia. This is only the second time in the history of Global Xchange that volunteers have been recruited locally and it will no doubt have a greater impact within the community and on the lives of 10 young residents."

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity go to the 'Apply Now' link on the Global Xchange website www.globalxchange.org.uk (please write 'Hounslow' next to your surname on the application), or if you would like more information about the programme and how you can get involved contact

Natasha Samuels on 07528 306291 or natashasamuels.gx@gmail.com. The deadline for applications is Friday 20th January 2012.

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. For more information, speak to the Programme Supervisor - Natasha Samuels, please call her on 07528 306291 or email natashasamuels.gx@gmail.com
2. For further information on Global Xchange check www.globalexchange.org.uk or contact the VSO switchboard and ask for Global Xchange on 020 8780 7500
3. The programme will be largely funded by the various funders. All related costs such as vaccinations, flights, visas, accommodation, food, insurance and a weekly allowance etc will be covered but some volunteers will be required to make a financial contribution of up to £2,000. Means testing ensures that a wide spectrum of people from all backgrounds can participate and will look at household income. Those with an income of £25,000 to £40,000 p/a will be expected to provide £1,000 costs. Those with a household income over £40,000 will be expected to provide £2,000. Young people will be given advice and support on how to raise the funds. Those with a household income under £25,000 will not have to contribute.