



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

E-IAVE

July-August-September 2014

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NEWS FROM IAVE

QUESTION: IS E-IAVE LATE OR EARLY?

ANSWER: BOTH!

Because we are deep in preparation for the IAVE World Youth Volunteer Conference and World Volunteer Conference in Gold Coast, Australia (September 15-20, 2014), we have fallen well behind on our planned schedule for the July-August edition and we know that we can't get August-September done on time. So, here you have the special July-August-September issue. We will be back on schedule, if all goes well, for the September-October issue.

In the meantime...come to Australia with us!

It is not too late to register for either conference. Check out the complete program for both at www.iave2014.org.

But if you cannot be with us in person, you can follow the action through social media:

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

FLICKER

YOUTUBE

HELP A COLLEAGUE GET TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE

IAVE has launched a final crowdsourcing campaign for scholarship funds to help colleagues who otherwise cannot afford to attend to come to the World Volunteer Conference. To learn more and to contribute, please go to <http://www.rockethub.com/projects/46627-iave-2014#description-tab>.

NEWS FROM IAVE MEMBERS

IAVE YOUTH MEMBERS IN SCOTLAND FOR THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUMMIT

[This article comes to us from Raaida Mannaa, manager of IAVE's youth strategy and programs.]

Agnetta Nyalita, IAVE Youth Board Member, represented our organization and her country, Kenya, in the Commonwealth Youth Summit, an event that took place in Dumfries, Scotland.

Delegates came from around the Commonwealth, including an exciting line-up of international keynote speakers and presenters. The comprehensive Summit's program served to highlight both the impact and benefits of leadership and volunteering.

Raaida Mannaa, IAVE's Youth Strategies Manager, was also at the Summit presenting IAVE's work and inviting youth from the Commonwealth to become members of our organization.

The overall coordination of the event was lead by Mark Molloy, former IAVE Board Member and Head of the Team of Youth of the Dumfries Council. Mark, a dear member of the IAVE family, is a tireless worker and promoter of youth volunteering in Scotland and globally.

If you want to know more about the event, check its website at: www.youthsummit2014.com

RBC STEPS UP TO A BIG CHALLENGE

[This article comes to us from Sarah Hayes, consultant director for IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council.]

RBC (Royal Bank of Canada), a member of IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council since 2013, is tackling an issue that has long been a problem for young people coming into the

workplace. It is the challenge of “No job, no experience – no experience, no job”! RBC’s newly initiated Career Launch Program is looking to break this cycle by offering paid internships to new graduates combining practical hands-on business and community experience with robust learning, mentorship and professional networking opportunities.

Though RBC is a financial institution with global reach, the Career Launch Program is not about developing a team of young bankers – which would clearly benefit them. Their aim is much broader - it is about providing a first career experience to address that “education to employment” challenge that young people face when they graduate. Diverse work rotations equip participants with 21st century skills such as communications, collaboration and critical thinking.

The first six months participants gain exposure to and experience sales and service within RBC’s retail branches. The second rotation involves helping the community for three months, where they gain exposure to the operations of a registered charity. This rotation is offering the opportunity for the interns to utilize their new skills as skills-based volunteers.

In the third rotation, participants take what they have learned to the next level by working in RBC’s corporate environment where they gain skills in areas such as finance, marketing, human resources, risk, technology and operations.

Participants also receive dedicated management support and an assigned volunteer mentor throughout the internship. This is in keeping with RBC’s employee volunteer program which encourages employees to use their business skills to help society. The participants also have access to a large network and the opportunity to build relationships with seasoned and influential professionals, which is always so important to people on the first leg of their career path.

Knowing how tech-savvy young people are, RBC reached out to them through a social media marketing campaign using Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and TalentEgg (a job and career website for Canadian youth). They received nearly 5,000 applications – and that is just in Canada! RBC hopes to replicate this in the future in other RBC locations around the world.

We will continue to check in with RBC to see how this promising new program is going – and if you are interested in getting something going like this in your community – you are welcome to reach out to Tanya Bell at RBC – tanya.bell@rbc.com.

GCVC companies continue to strive to make a difference in communities around the world!
Thanks for another great example, RBC!

THE REGIONAL CHALLENGE

HOW ARE WE DOING?

In March, we issued a challenge to the Regional Representatives to IAVE’s Board of Directors: Can you provide us with an article from your region for each E-IAVE through the end of 2014? They responded affirmatively and the challenge is underway. The scorecard as of this issue:

Arab Nations and Latin America = 4 each

Africa and Europe = 3 each

Asia-Pacific = 2

North America, which joins us for the first time this month, with TWO articles = 1

From Africa

VOLUNTEERING IN CHAD

[This article was prepared by Ms. Djibrine.S.Amalkher, IAVE member from Chad. Her email is cocsad.org@hotmail.fr. Thanks to Elizabeth Okezie, IAVE Regional Representative for Africa, for arranging it.]

Chad, officially the Republic of Chad, is a country in Central Africa without access to the sea – south of Libya, east of Niger and Nigeria, northern Cameroon and the Central African Republic and western of Sudan. Its capital is N'Djamena. Geographically and culturally, Chad is a gateway between North Africa and Black Africa. With an area of 1,284,000 square km, it is the fifth largest country in Africa.

Chad's population is more than 11,000 000 (eleven million), comprising mainly of children and youths who need to engage themselves in charitable and volunteering services to help each other build the future and make positive changes in the community. As a matter of fact, today many young Chadians are proud to be in voluntary work - they train, sensitize and offer more services to people in need. Hence, our contact with IAVE, to promote, strengthen and celebrate the development of volunteerism in Chad.

After our contact with the IAVE Africa Regional Representative Elizabeth Okezie, we had discussions about IAVE, its goals and Chad's involvement in volunteer activities; and also with the information provided us from the IAVE website, we are now involved with sensitizing our fellow youths concerning volunteer work and about IAVE.

From the beginning of June 2014, we have had meetings with a group of Chadian activists and some volunteer associations to inform them about IAVE and its promotion in Republic of Chad, as volunteering is a noble act that only determined and conscientious people can engage themselves in.

With some programs we have scheduled for the next 4 months, we anticipate reaching more people within our community/country in order to promote IAVE and its goals in Chad.

From the Arab Nations

ENCOURAGING RETURNING EMIGRANTS TO VOLUNTEER

[Thanks to Dr. Patricia Nabti, Regional Representative from the Arab Nations Region to the IAVE Board of Directors and also Secretary of the Board, for this article.]

Since the 1850's Lebanon has experienced many waves of emigration. Lebanese left home for a variety of different reasons: to seek their fortunes abroad, to get an education, and to escape persecution, economic hardships, famine, wars, parental constraints, and personal problems. Large numbers of Lebanese have settled in every country of North and South America, Australia, and many countries of Africa, and Europe. Many are called *Syrians* or *Turkos* since Lebanon was part of the Syrian province of the Ottoman Empire. According to an article in Wikipedia, *"Although there are no reliable figures, the [Lebanese] diaspora is estimated to be around 14 million people, far more than the internal population of Lebanon of 4.3 million."*

A number of initiatives in Lebanon have sought to capitalize on this vast network of people of Lebanese heritage. They have encouraged the emigrants to invest in their country of origin financially through support of business projects or to make visits home to support the country's tourist industry. Some have offered the emigrants opportunities to volunteer.

While there are no formal structures for *voluntourism*, the Directorate of Emigrants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has had annual summer camps for youth of Lebanese heritage that have usually had a volunteer component. The UN TOKTEN Program (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals) has facilitated the volunteer contributions of a small number of expatriate professionals.

Most recently, a new social venture called *Pedraya* has embarked on a project to produce a magazine for Lebanese expatriates planning to visit Lebanon. The first issue, called *Home for Christmas* is to be launched in September and will include an article on expatriates volunteering in the country during the holidays. Organizations, service institutions, schools, universities, municipalities, and government ministries are being invited to participate in this project, by having their profile in the magazine (both hardcopy and online), and providing a list of opportunities that could engage expatriate individuals, groups, and families in volunteer activities between November 15 and January 15.

Pedraya will try to have volunteer opportunities in all areas of service and all regions of the country, and requiring different skills and time commitments. And while the project will target Lebanese from throughout the world, it is hope that this issue will be of special interest to emigrants in the southern hemisphere, like those in Australia and Latin America, who will be on summer vacation at that time.

Does your country have such any similar programs to bring its emigrants back as volunteers? Does it have citizens of Lebanese origin who might be interested in learning more about this program? For more information go to: <http://www.learningtocare.com/home-christmas>.

From Europe

PAID OR UNPAID VOLUNTEERING – WHAT STRENGTHENS VOLUNTEERING?

[Thanks to Eugen Baldas, Regional Representative for Europe to the IAVE Board of Directors, for this thoughtful contribution.]

There is a permanent discussion about monetary payment for volunteering: Should it be suitable to give volunteers a cash sum for their services or should volunteering be without any payment? On this issue there are many differences of opinion which can lead to heated debates. On one side if you give regular money to volunteers you are undermining the ethics of volunteering and the freedom of offering unpaid services. Therefore money should be avoided in all cases.

On the other hand, various social services are urgently looking for additional help, especially within the care sector. In Germany, there are laws / guidelines which allow volunteers to be paid around the minimum wage and it is regarded by employers as a financial reward and not as a salary.

Those who are in fulltime voluntary service, eg the European volunteer service, have to receive a monthly allowance by law. The French language is specific in stating that. "Voluntariat" means paid by an allowance and "Benevolat" means strictly unpaid. However reimbursement of any expenses should be offered together with a form of recognition ie a birthday present. For those suffering financial difficulties this could also be a type of financial reward.

Ideally, there should be no conflict of opinion regarding this issue but there should be a recognised difference between a paid monetary job and a supplementary benefit for those giving their time free of charge.

From Latin America

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY IN GUATEMALA

[Thanks to Carmen Chavarria, IAVE National Representative for Guatemala, who also translates E-IAVE into Spanish every month, for this article.]

Young volunteers in Guatemala celebrated International Youth Day, doing what we like most: volunteering!!!

Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala sent an invitation to celebrate the day together, IAVE in Guatemala and other organizations in the country answered the invitation and all together formed an organizing committee for the activity, then an open call for all youth was launched.

On August 9th all volunteers went to Sansare, El Progreso (Province of limited resources to the northwest of Guatemala City). The main objective of the activity was to celebrate the day volunteering with youths of all organizations together.

We went there to renovate the main school of the province and remember the importance of having clean areas and in good conditions to get a comprehensive education. The main activities were: cleaning and painting of the classrooms and hallways of the school; painting the basketball court; creating a mural on the facade of the school; cleaning of green areas; and, also teaching the importance of recycling and keeping green areas clean.

The students of the school, some parents and the media that covered the event also joined the activity and celebrated IYD with the volunteers.

From North America (#1 – Canada)

HOW DO BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS BENEFIT WHEN THEY COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER? Find out this September at the Business and Community Engagement Forum in Ottawa!

[Thanks to Lainie Towell, Manager of Marketing and Communications at Volunteer Canada / Bénévoles Canada, for this article. For more information, she can be reached at ltowell@volunteer.ca.]

The RBC Foundation, Volunteer Canada and Carleton University have established *the Canadian Institute for Business and Community Engagement*.

The *Business and Community Engagement Forum* will be the Institute's inaugural event, bringing together 150 participants from a variety of regions and sectors.

In 2010, five million employed Canadians received some kind of support from their workplaces to volunteer in the community. For these relationships to be successful, they require cross-organizational understanding, common language and an alignment among the objectives of the business and the community organization. More and more, both businesses and community organizations are seeking tools and training specific to the Canadian landscape.

With generous funding from the **RBC Foundation**, Volunteer Canada and **Carleton University** have established the *Canadian Institute for Business and Community Engagement* to respond to these needs.

The ***Business and Community Engagement Forum*** will be the Institute's first event and is intended for business leaders, academic researchers and practitioners in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

The two day forum is an opportunity to showcase and explore practices, models and tools that strengthen community engagement and employer-supported volunteering in Canada. Participants will explore cutting-edge ideas in breakout sessions, workshops and roundtable discussions. Keynote speakers include Dan Pallotta, Founder & President of Advertising for Humanity & Charity Defense Council, Jocelyne Daw, Founder & CEO of JS Daw & Associates and Stephanie Robertson, President of SiMPACT Strategy Group.

The breakout sessions will explore the following topics:

- Brokering reciprocal relationships between businesses and community organizations
- Realizing shared value: increasing employee engagement and maximizing community impact
- Linking core competencies to organizational capacity building: a skills-based approach
- Small and medium-sized businesses shaping communities through unique approaches
- Leveraging social media to mobilize talent
- Measuring the value and impact of employer-supported volunteering
- Team volunteering models

To learn more about the Forum check out <http://volunteer.ca/forum>.

From North America (#2 – United States) A REPORT FROM THE US NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

[Thanks to Susan Danish, IAVE National Representative in the U.S. and CEO of the Association of Junior Leagues International, for this article. AJLI annually sponsors a shared booth for IAVE and it in the exhibit hall of the conference.]

We are all looking forward to the IAVE World Conference in Australia in September but for many of us in the USA, our summer began in June with another big conference, the 2014 Points of Light Conference on Volunteering and Service, which this year was held in Atlanta, Georgia.

With a conference theme of "Service Unites," the nearly 5,000 delegates attended general sessions featuring well-known speakers and advocates including Chelsea Clinton of the Clinton Foundation and Bernice King, the youngest child of the US civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Delegates were also able to select from over 100 different sessions in tracks including Business (corporate social responsibility), Capacity Building, Innovation, National Service, Volunteer Engagement and Youth Service and Leadership. Although a national conference, there were also opportunities to think globally, with eight of the conference sessions focused on global issues and opportunities.

As in the past, IAVE was present at the conference. IAVE and The Association of Junior Leagues International (an IAVE member and US representative organization for IAVE) once again partnered in a booth in the Exhibit Area. Over the years it's been a great way to spread the word about the two organizations. Both organizations answered questions and handed out literature.

IAVE members were invited to a special reception at the “World of Coca-Cola” event venue (Atlanta is the headquarters for Coca-Cola). IAVE was the Global Nonprofit Partner for the event, which was also hosted by The Coca-Cola Company, The Walt Disney Company and Hilton Worldwide.

All of us who volunteer and work with volunteers, look forward to opportunities to connect, share and learn. That’s why conferences like the Points of Light Conference and IAVE’s World Conference are so exciting and important.

THE LAST WORD

IAVE HAS JOINED THE 500 DAYS 500 WAYS CAMPAIGN – WE NEED YOUR HELP.

On Monday, August 18, 2014 the 500ways.org website was launched with a campaign to bring attention to the accomplishments of volunteers in support of the Millennium Development Goals and to support to development of the next set of sustainable development goals. Part of IAVE’s commitment includes serving as a partner organization by supplying the website with stories about volunteers and their work. Please share with your networks and get their stories acknowledged as well.

For 500 days beginning on 18 August 2014, the front page of the website features a different daily story that encapsulates this contribution. This space can accommodate pictures, text, video and audio, past stories and examples will be viewable in an archive on the site.

So check out the website and send us your stories. www.500days.org.

Key Messages

- Volunteers make a positive contribution to sustainable development – they are needed to **implement** any framework
- Volunteers are key to increasing **civic participation** that holds leaders to account for their promises – empowering people
- Volunteers were not explicitly mentioned in the MDG framework but have been **key to meeting and exceeding many of the MDGs** like school enrolment (as campaigners, teachers, trainers and carers), reducing infant and maternal mortality (as nurses, midwives and trainers), reducing the levels of HIV/AIDS (as campaigners, health workers and trainers) , in governance and accountability on all levels.
- The act of volunteering **creates a partnership** between the volunteer and the people they are working with, often promoting peace and stability through a process of social inclusion.
- Volunteers play a vital role in promoting **gender equality**
- Volunteers come in **all different forms**– international, national, community, youth, older people, diaspora, South-South etc. and all have a unique value and contribution.

- Volunteers will play a vital role in the next stage of the MDGs, what happens after 2015 and in adding quality to numbers in the 'softer' versus 'harder' development outcomes.
- Follow #500ways and retweet the daily Twitter update from the organisation on 'duty' and who has posted content.
- Use other social media channels to signpost users to www.500ways.org.