

E-IAVE

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Young People and Our Common Future

Kylee Bates, IAVE World President

Young people matter. They matter because an unprecedented 1.8 billion youth are alive today, and because they are the shapers and leaders of our global future. They matter because they have inherent human rights that must be fulfilled. Yet, in a world of adult concerns, young people are often overlooked.¹

This is also often a reality of how youth volunteering efforts are enabled and acknowledged and which has led IAVE to deem 'youth' a priority focus area.

The 2014 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Malala Yousafzai and her advocacy for the rights of girls to

education is a celebrated example of the power of youth voice and voluntary action to create change. However in too many countries, and too many organisations, the contribution of youth volunteers and what this achieves for communities and countries fails to attract the recognition it deserves. This must change.

This month IAVE partners with, and celebrates [Global Youth Service Day \(GYSD\)](#). Established in 1988 to celebrate and mobilize the millions of young people who improve their communities through service GYSD is now celebrated annually in more than 135 countries and I encourage all IAVE members to get

involved.

I urge IAVE members to take the steps they can to enable the participation of young people and recognise their contributions:

- youth members should share their experiences with others, highlighting the benefits to self and community;
- volunteer organisations should ensure that young people have genuine opportunities to lead important initiatives which strengthen the capacity of the young people and their communities;
- business should provide opportunities for young employees to be active contributors to community as volunteers through employee volunteer programs and critically, should recognise the value of a young person's skills and experience acquired through volunteering when they seek employment; and
- governments must create a legislative and policy framework in which the efforts of young volunteers are enabled, measured and valued.

We ALL have much to gain from greater enablement of young people's participation, for as the young people of 26 countries who attended the 2014 World Youth Conference themselves affirmed *Volunteering is a powerful tool that builds leadership among youth, helping develop compassionate agents of change active in the present and working for a better future.*²

¹ Chapter 1 *State of the World's Population 2014*, United Nations Population Fund

² *Youth Statement of the 2014 World Youth Volunteer Conference*, IAVE <http://iave.org/content/youth-statement-2014-iave-world-youth-conference-australia>

Mary Celebrates Her 100th Birthday with Friends and Family

Mary Ripley, IAVE's Founding President, celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends in San Francisco, California on March 21st. IAVE's executive director Kathi Dennis had a chance to attend the celebration and to present to Mary a gift from IAVE and our members throughout the world. During the past few months, we collected birthday messages and photos from IAVE members worldwide to commemorate Mary's 100th birthday. Thanks to the efforts of over 50+ members worldwide, we were able to present Mary a gift full of memories and gratitude from IAVE.

Below is a message from Mary regarding the book:

"[The book is] amazing and beautiful. I am a wreck reading all these wonderful remarks by people from all over the world. What a treasure. The most wonderful birthday present! A true labor of love. I am so grateful!"

Thank you to all those who made helped contribute to the creation of this book! To see the online version of the final product, please [click here](#).



Recap: Global Youth Service Day Webinar for our Latino Members

Raaida Mannaa, Project Manager, IAVE Global Youth Volunteers

On Wednesday March 25, and following our English webinar, IAVE, Youth Service America (YSA) and Partners of the America, joined forces to bring to our members a webinar in Spanish about Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), which will take place on April 17-19.

As YSA's signature campaign, GYSD is the largest service event in the world that activates and celebrates the millions of children and youth who find their voice, take action, and have an impact on vital issues. Since its very beginning in IAVE has been a key-global partner for GYSD, empowering members to participate and spreading its message worldwide.

You can check the webinar in our [YouTube Channel here](#).

Our next youth webinar will be on the role of youth volunteers in disaster recovering. Stay tuned to our Facebook and Twitter for more details about how to register and participate.

News from IAVE Members

UNV-Hong Kong Universities' Volunteer Program Launch in Hong Kong

By **Flora Chung**, CEO, Agency for Volunteer Service; IAVE National Representative for Hong Kong

Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS), dedicated to playing a pivotal role in the promotion of sustainable volunteerism, will launch the UNV-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Program with funding from the government for a pilot of 2 years to provide new opportunities for youth participation in volunteering worldwide.

Ten university undergraduates will be selected each year to contribute to global peace and sustainable human development through volunteer assignments of six months, and to be exposed to a global perspective of volunteerism, and realize their full potential. The first batch of undergraduate volunteers is expected to depart in July this year.



AVS is working in collaboration with universities in Hong Kong to promote and recruit undergraduates to participate in volunteering services at UN agencies or field units in South East Asia. AVS, Hong Kong Volunteers, Association, and Peace and Development Foundation will jointly choose a selection of volunteers. AVS will provide pre-departure training to the selected volunteers to equip them with necessary information, knowledge and skills to facilitate them to achieve their roles in serving the UN assignments.

A special initiative to foster youth volunteerism in Hong Kong, it was mentioned in the Policy Address of Mr. C Y Leung, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR. More details of the Program are available on [AVS website](#).

Dutch Healthcare Changes Put Pressure on Volunteers

By **Gwen van Roekel**, IAVE National Representative for The Netherlands

Healthcare in The Netherlands is changing drastically, shifting from institutionalized care for the elderly and the disabled, to home-based care and living with as much autonomy as possible. More tailored care and tackling ever-rising health care costs lie at the heart of this model. These changes place more demands and responsibility on individuals, caregivers, and volunteers. Under the new model, home nursing and personal care services are organized through healthcare insurance. Town councils, now responsible for organizing and financing a larger portion of healthcare services themselves, increasingly ask residents needing day care services and housekeeping help to first look for support from their family, friends and volunteers. Pressure is falling on these groups to fill the gaps.

Several digital social platforms (translated to English: We Help, Care for Each Other, My Neighborhood*) have started up at the local level to facilitate people finding assistance from neighbors and volunteers. They vary in scope, size and the social needs addressed. Financing for larger networks comes from banks, healthcare insurers, town councils, and healthcare, social housing, and pension providers.



Usually one or more networks receive formal town council approval and are supported by volunteer centers, social organizations, and healthcare services. It is too early to judge if these platforms will be successful, but it is clear that they need broad local support and sustained promotion to succeed. Dutch citizens, for various reasons, are often reluctant in asking for help from others, and also need nudging in order to do so.

*Dutch organization names: WeHelpen (We Help), Zorg voor Elkaar (Care for each Other), Mijn Buurtje (My Neighborhood)

Volunteering and the World Social Forum in Tunisia

By **Patricia Nabti**, IAVE Regional Representative to the Arab Nations

Tunisia was the site of the 2015 World Social Forum (WSF) on March 24-28, only two years after the last time it hosted the WSF. The Forum, with the theme: *"Another world is possible"* brought together some 70,000 delegates from more than 4,000 organizations representing 120 countries who discussed a wide range of issues and topics including social equity, climate justice, migration, media freedom, women's rights, refugees, and energy.

I participated in the WSF primarily to help IAVE connect more with the Maghreb countries of North Africa – Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Through Kathi Dennis, I connected with Karine Gratton, an IAVE member from Canada who is preparing an IAVE study on volunteer programs for government employees. We joined with Tunisian and Moroccan colleagues to organize a session on volunteering.

My presentation, *The State of Volunteering in the Arab World*, drew on the many presentations at the two IAVE Arab Nations Regional Conferences, regional articles in E-IAVE, and my own personal experience. I began with a discussion of traditional forms of volunteering in Arab culture, and then discussed the expansion of civil society organizations, increase in specialists, and increased volunteer infrastructure in the region, as well as the existence of government policies that both support and obstruct volunteering. I also demonstrated with screenshots from the Internet the growing presence of Arabic language online sources about volunteering online. These include blogs, Twitter accounts, Facebook pages, songs, YouTube videos, Slideshare files, and portals that provide training, information, and matching of volunteers with volunteer opportunities.

An interesting discussion in our workshop centered on the world “volunteer.” The participants from Francophone countries generally connect the word with the French word “volontaire,” which is more like Peace Corps and UN Volunteers who are stipended “volunteers,” usually working full time with financial compensation to cover living expenses. Karine and I, on the other hand, focused our presentations on what in French is called “benévole” – the generally part-time, unpaid volunteers who might be compensated for out-of-pocket expenses like transportation, meals, and uniform costs, but nothing else.

Volunteering in Chad

By **Amalkher Djibrine
Souleymane**, IAVE Member,
Republic of Chad

Chad is one of the countries in Africa where volunteerism is appreciated and practiced, with the current focus on youth volunteering.

Within our country, there are many nonprofit organizations with primarily young people serving as volunteers. There are also many individual volunteers, without an organizational affiliation, who work to make a lasting impact in their communities. Although these youths lack the experience and a complete understanding of their roles in the volunteer field, they have been impacting the volunteer community with their own unique set of ideas and innovations.

Chad is the hub for most refugees in Central Africa. After years of support for these people in need, our young people have started to understand the need for volunteers. They are not only looking to work for a salary, but they have learnt to sacrifice their time, effort, and even resources to a very noble and significant “job” of volunteering.

Today, being part of a nonprofit organization is a desirable challenge to every young Chadian, with most youths and many adults becoming involved in the volunteering community. Although capacity building is difficult, volunteers in Chad continue to create support for one another.

Volunteers in Chad are continue to organize trainings for our youth volunteers, making use of the resource materials and information accessible to us within this domain in order to facilitate and promote volunteering in Chad.

Skill-Based Volunteering in Portugal

By Sarah Hayes, Consultant Director, IAVE's Global Corporate Volunteer Council

GCVC member EDP is a large electricity production and distribution company based in Portugal but operating in 13 countries. They are one of the most well respected companies in Portugal, and are known to be community-minded.

Many of us who work in the corporate volunteering field are aware that skills-based volunteering (SBV) is a very important topic that companies are prioritizing in their employee volunteer programs (EVPs). While most companies work to provide a balance of volunteer opportunities in their EVPs, utilizing the skills of company employees is a very good way to help NGOs in ways that can be very meaningful to them, such as project management, strategic planning, technology, communications, and many other things. Many companies – such as law firms and accounting firms – have been doing this type of volunteering for many years, known as pro-bono work. But now companies in all industries are embracing SBV.

Obviously, many of EDP's employees have a very specific knowledge base – electricity – and a number of special skills relating to it. Because of this, EDP established a program called



“Electricians for NGOs” in Portugal, providing skilled electricians nationwide to assist NGOs.

Many NGOs, especially small ones and those that work with the elderly or with children, do not have the resources on hand when a serious electrical problem occurs. EDP makes this opportunity known to NGOs throughout Portugal so that these NGOs have someone to turn to in this time of need. EDP volunteers are sent out in teams, and HR and the EDP Foundation together manage the program, supported by top management.

This program is not only rewarding to the volunteers who participate, but aligns well with EDP's goals, which depends on community support and good reputation. EDP employees live and work in the towns and cities where these NGOs do their good work, so this program is a win-win for the company, the employee volunteers, and the communities themselves. Since its beginning in 2013, the program continues to grow as word spreads of this SBV offering by one of Portugal's most important and prestigious companies.

News from the Global Volunteer Community

Lisbon Has Been Appointed as the 2015 European Volunteering Capital!

By Ramona Dragomir, Manager,
Network Development

Organized and led by the European Volunteer Centre (CEV), the **European Volunteering Capital** competition aims to promote volunteering at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities which support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and volunteer involving organisations in their communities, implementing the recommendations of the [Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe \(P.A.V.E\)](#).

An international jury has selected Lisbon to be the European Volunteer Capital in 2015. Over the course of the year, the city of Lisbon has put together a series of activities aimed at increasing the quality, recognition and



institutional framework for volunteering. The activities include:

- Volunteer management guide – good practice toolkit;
- Educational program for primary schools;
- Volunteering Market;
- Municipality volunteering award;

- Seminar on standards for measurement of personal competences gained through volunteering;
- Study about the social and economic impact of volunteering.

For more information about the initiative and to stay update with the activities planned for 2015, please visit the website dedicated to Lisbon – 2015 European Volunteer Capital [here](#).

Employee Volunteer Week: You Can Make a World of Difference

By **Karena Cronin**, Business
Development Manager,
Charities Aid Foundation
South Africa

Employee Volunteer Week is a uniquely South African campaign, started by Charities Aid Foundation South Africa (CAFSA) just over 10 years ago. The campaign is grounded in the belief that employers – whether in the private, public or civil society sectors – can play a catalytic role in supporting employees to participate in building a more equitable and just South Africa.

CAFSA, which supports effective giving in the country, encourages employers to develop employee volunteering programmes that are aligned to the core business or mission of the organisation and which enable sustained volunteer engagement.

When the campaign was launched, employee volunteering was still a burgeoning phenomenon in South Africa. Today, employee volunteering is increasingly popular, especially among companies. Yet there is scope to enhance the impact of employee volunteering as well as increase participation of employees from all sectors.

With funding flows drying up from international sources, civil society organisations (CSOs) are looking within, more than ever, for resources to support their sustainability. While employee volunteers alone cannot fill the resource gap in the sector, employees have skills, social networks and access to other resources which can help CSOs.

This year's Employee Volunteer Week theme was **"You can Make a World a Difference"**. The theme was inspired by

CAFSA's soon to be launched pilot study report on individual giving and volunteering in Gauteng, South Africa. The study shows that the main motivating factor behind volunteering among 'ordinary' individuals in Gauteng is the belief that "I can make a difference".

CAFSA supported a number of corporate volunteer engagements, which built on earlier engagement by corporate clients. This year, the activities focused on career guidance for young people in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Volunteers shared information about their work, talked to young people about university offerings, worked on developing

CVs, and conducted mock interviews.

One educator remarked, "Seeing the tears of joy of these young successful and dynamic leaders, certainly made us as educators feel so much more valued." A corporate volunteer said, "We really made an impact today, not only to the learners but I feel it was a self-reflection on ourselves."

While uptake this year was lower than usual for a number of reasons, CAFSA is looking to take a renewed approach next year and will be targeting not only companies but also employers in other sectors – higher education, government and civil society.

News of Matthias Schmale, Former IAVE Board Member

We have learned that Matthias Schmale, a former member of the IAVE Board of Directors, has been named as Director Lebanon Affairs for the United Nations Relief and Works Administration (UNRWA) that provides support for Palestinian refugees. Some 450,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon, with many living in the country's 12 refugee camps. He has served for the past six years as Under Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. He is a good friend and supporter of IAVE. We wish him well as he moves to this new and challenging position.