



Generation Exchange Newsletter: Spring 2019

Welcome to Generation Exchange's First Volunteer Newsletter

Thank you to all our lovely volunteers who give so much of their time to help children and young people with reading and maths, and equally, our young volunteers who give their time to help older people to better use their computers and other digital devices.

In response to popular demand from our volunteers we are launching our first newsletter to keep everyone informed of current projects, events, training and any new developments, for volunteers to share ideas, and to showcase some of the fantastic work we are able to do in the boroughs of Haringey and Enfield.

Generation Exchange Calendar of Events and Publications

February 2019	Spring Newsletter AGM and Volunteer Evaluation Feedback Summary Notice of Phonics Training Session
March 2019	Launch of new Generation Exchange Website
2nd April 2019	Training Session: Phonics (followed by light refreshments) Session will cover an overview of phonics for volunteers working with children using the phonics approach when learning to read 10.30am – 1.30pm Shine, 89-91 Turnpike Lane, N8 0DY Please contact Claire to book your place.
May 2010	Summer Newsletter
June/July	Summer Training Session & Get-together

Update on Generation Exchange's AGM held on 13th December 2018

Many thanks to everyone who came to the AGM held at St Pauls Church Hall, Bradley Road, Wood Green. In the first part of the meeting the new Chair, Karen Greenwood, welcomed everyone, introduced our new Trustee Rosy D'Silva as well as existing trustees and staff who fed back on the charity's achievements for the year ending 31st August 2018.

Claire Frost (Generation Exchange Co-ordinator) detailed achievements of the past year for the charity's reading volunteer projects funded by three funders; Northumberland Park Partnership Board, the Peabody Association (through the London Community Foundation) and the Postcode Lottery Trust. This year's funding has enabled Generation Exchange to recruit, train, place and support 32 volunteers into schools and children's centres across N17 helping children with reading, with volunteers collectively contributing over 2,800 hours. Over 420 children within Haringey received a minimum of 6 months reading support from an older reading volunteer who listened to them read once a week.

Feedback included a comment from one Head teacher who said that "every single child who has had 1:1 support from the volunteers has made an accelerated progress. It is easily the biggest impact of any reading intervention across the school". We are grateful for the opportunity for our older people to continue to help children with their reading and welcome new schools to become part of the Generation Exchange reading and maths Project.

Leonie Eisenberg (IT Exchange Co-ordinator) fed back on IT Exchange's achievements of the past year

2017-18 saw the launch of Generation Exchange's Digital Inclusion programme in schools in both Haringey and Enfield. We are very grateful to Deutsche Bank through the London Community Foundation who kindly funded our intergenerational IT project (IT Exchange) with Hornsey School for Girls for 20 weeks and to Fairview New Homes who kindly granted funding for a project run in partnership between Generation Exchange and St Anne's Upper School in Palmers Green for 9 weeks.

Sixth Form volunteers from both schools were trained to become IT volunteers, and over 2 terms the Sixth Form volunteers provided 1:1 tailored weekly IT coaching to older people from the local area. The project's success is based on the creation of a relaxed and informal learning environment where older people learn digital skills and young people learn from the huge and varied life experiences from the older participants,

Across the two projects, a total of 41 older people benefited from 1:1 IT coaching utilising the skills of 38 young volunteers aged 16-17. Learners set up emails, surfed the net, got to grips with their smart phones and even had a go at designing greeting cards.

Digital Inclusion evaluations:

- 100% of older learners who completed our evaluations reported an increase in digital skills and confidence using computers
- Over 85% of older learners on our Enfield project reported changes or improvements in their wellbeing as a result of the project
- 70% of older learners on our Haringey project felt more connected to their local community as a result of the project
- 100% of young volunteers found their volunteering experience, interesting, challenging and rewarding

Lynda Hall, Generation Exchange's Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report outlining Generation Exchange's income and expenditure for the year ending 31st August 2018.

Due to a very generous two year grant from Tudor Trust to the charity our income for the year ending 31st August was £56,625. Expenditure for 2017 – 18 totalled £23,414.

Maura Pearson outlined progress on other new initiatives taken forward from last year's AGM in December 2017. Funding was the major challenge for the charity's future and we were delighted to announce that Tudor Trust has awarded Generation Exchange two years' core funding in order for the charity to grow and develop. The charity has continued to promote our volunteering offer to local people at the Haringey Peoples' Day event and our IT exchange project was given an award for the volunteering project at Hornsey School for Girls as part of the Haringey Expo. Two short films have been made about our projects which will feature in our soon to be re-launched website.

Volunteer led projects have included reading to early readers at St Pauls and All Hallows, led by one of our volunteers and the charity continues to welcome any ideas about projects that volunteers may like to become involved with, in line with our charitable objects.

Results of the Evaluation of Generation Exchange's Volunteer Experience

At Generation Exchange's latest AGM volunteers completed a questionnaire to evaluate their experiences with Generation Exchange plus group discussion chaired by the Chair of Generation Exchange.

The following is a summary of the main evaluation findings and recommendations.

In terms of preparation for being placed in a primary schools to help children with their reading 100% of volunteers who took part in the evaluation felt that the training was of a high standard and that they had been well-prepared for their volunteering.

"The quality of the training was excellent and especially provided an insight into what we would find within a school environment. (It was) very good to talk to an existing, experienced volunteer."

- 100% of volunteers felt that their contribution was valued by the charity.
“It has been helpful, I feel valued”
- 92% of volunteers felt that they knew where to go for help (whether that was from the charity or the school where they are placed) and 84% reporting that they felt the charity understood their needs.
- 84% of volunteers felt that schools valued their contributions with 67% feeling that their needs as volunteers were understood by schools.

*“Because I get good feedback from the school it has definitely boosted my confidence”
“I was nervous at the start but as time went on I feel I can handle the children a lot better”*

In terms of the personal impact volunteering has had for volunteers comments included:

“It gives that feeling of giving something back to my community”

*“self-confidence, self-worth”, a “sense of purpose, fun, joy; awareness of problems schools/teachers face”
“the satisfaction of seeing a child’s confidence building”*

“I have developed more confidence, to be patient, friendly, and maintaining my boundaries”

Areas for development and ideas for the future:

There is always room for improvement and some volunteers felt they could get more involved and help children better if the information they were given from the schools about the children they are working with was more detailed; a list of the children detailing the key areas for each child to develop in their reading journey; the opportunity to be able to take their own books; the chance, from time to time, to speak with the teacher and being able to get some individualised feedback from the school and to follow children’s progress.

Volunteers were keen that as a new charity Generation Exchange has the capacity to take on more volunteers and work with more schools by advertising, using the local press, developing the website, and using social media. Volunteers were also keen on a regular programme of newsletters, training sessions, and opportunities for volunteers to get-together, share ideas and learn from each other. Some of these ideas are already being put into action and volunteers will receive regular updates and training plus opportunities for socialising.

Please contact Claire for more information on the full evaluation exercise.

Digital Inclusion Update

We are currently running two digital inclusion courses, one in Haringey at Hornsey School for Girls (funded by Youth Social Action Fund) and the second in Enfield at St Anne's in Palmers Green (funded by St James’ Place Foundation) for the academic year 2018-2019. So far this year, across the two schools, 38 older people have received 1:1 digital support and 39 young volunteers have given their time and skills to support their older learners.

At the end of February we will be launching a pilot project with Woodside High School in Haringey running a shorter programme of 10 weeks with younger children aged 14 and 15 who will support older people to improve their computer skills. We are grateful to Deutsche Bank for funding this pilot. We are currently fundraising for projects for the next academic year. For more about our digital inclusion projects, please contact Leonie.

* And lastly a huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and learners for your time and efforts- we couldn't do it without you! *

Work on Generation Exchange’s website and Social Media presence

Generation Exchange’s website is currently being updated in order that we can better showcase the work and achievements of the charity.

We will also be dipping our toes into the world of social media!

Any suggestions for stories or items on the website please contact Claire.

Generation Exchange Trustees

Generation Exchange Trustees bring a wealth of work and life experience to their role as Trustees of this new charity. Collectively they bring experience from the world of education, banking, marketing, the magistracy, senior NHS management roles, as well as valuable experience of having served as Trustees for other charities. We are very grateful for the time, energy, dedication and support of our Trustees, many of whom have volunteered and continue to volunteer in schools across Haringey.

<p>Karen Greenwood (Chair) Karen is an executive coach and facilitator. Karen helps to organise training and development sessions for volunteers and has over 7 years' experience coaching sixth formers.</p>	<p>Lynda Hall (Treasurer) Lynda has 9 years' experience volunteering in schools as a reading volunteer and is the Treasurer of Generation Exchange</p>
<p>Maura Pearson (Safeguarding Lead) Maura has 9 years' experience volunteering in schools as a reading volunteer and is the Safeguarding lead for Generation Exchange</p>	<p>Rosy D'Silva Rosy has 5 years' experience volunteering in schools as a reading volunteer and is Chair of Governors at a local Haringey primary school</p>

Generation Exchange Staff

<p>Claire Frost: Generation Exchange Co-ordinator Claire works part-time for Generation Exchange as the Co-ordinator for the charity, leading on the reading and maths volunteering projects in local Haringey schools. She is the Deputy Lead for Safeguarding for Generation Exchange and has over 20 years' experience in education & training.</p>	<p>Leonie Eisenberg: IT Exchange Co-ordinator Leonie works part-time for Generation Exchange and leads on our digital inclusion projects, IT Exchange. She has over 10 years' experience running similar projects in other organisations as well as supporting volunteers to find fulfilling and enjoyable opportunities.</p>
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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH & MAKE SUGGESTIONS:

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Charity Number: 1169765

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO OUR CURRENT FUNDERS:



Personal Donations can be made on the website or by cheque to Generation Exchange at the Muswell Hill Centre, Hillfield Park, London N10 3QJ