

Connecting Local Businesses with the Voluntary Sector

There are over 400 voluntary sector organisations based in Crawley, most of these would be delighted to receive support from a local business.

That gives your organisation plenty of choice in what you would like to do. There are a number of routes that businesses commonly take to support organisations, for example donations, fundraising activities and team building renovation projects. But the corporate sector has many other skills to offer the voluntary sector and these can often have the most impact.

Questions for your organisation

What type of charity would you like to support?

What type of activity would you like to undertake?

What would you like to gain from providing the support?

Fundraising

This can be more diverse and exciting than it sounds. You are in a great position to organise a fundraising event, or challenge. This can be a social event, a sponsored event, auction or another fabulous creative idea.

If your organisation does not wish to be involved in the planning of an event there are many charities who are signed up to pre-arranged events- for example cycles, runs or fire walking!

Donations

Voluntary sector organisations will always appreciate a financial donation, however there are many other things that you can give to a charity that will save them money and potentially be a resource that they would otherwise not be able to afford, for example; computer equipment and office furniture. Items do not necessarily need to come from your business, encouraging staff to bring in items from home for donation can also benefit the voluntary sector, for example clothes which can be sold on in a charity shops.

Giving time

There are different ways in which your organisation can give time to the voluntary sector. Many businesses arrange team events to help an organisation complete a task for example a renovation or charity shop challenge.

One of the most valuable things that your organisation can provide the voluntary sector is your expertise. A management committee of a small charity might be struggling to create a business plan to enable them to gain funding and become sustainable. A small team of your staff may be able to undertake this in a day- supporting the organisation into the longer term future.

How have local businesses helped the voluntary sector?

Royal Bank of Scotland has a long term project with St Catherine Hospice- they support a schools fundraising enterprise initiative by providing mentors to the students. This not only increases the income that the project brings in, but the young people in the schools benefit from their connection to the business community.

Hilton Hotels regularly donate goods to local groups, this year service users at a local homelessness charity Open House have been a little warmer because of donated duvets.

Barclays Bank offer their foyer to local groups. This year many groups have benefited from recruiting volunteers from Barclay's customers.

Baker Tilly provided furniture and audio visual equipment to a number of voluntary sector organisations when they moved premises.

Doosan hold a regular 'Day of Service' where they undertake projects for local community groups this has included gardening, decorating and collecting food for Crawley Food Collective

Asda collect toys and gifts which are presented to a local charity supporting families with young children

Crawley Community Voluntary Service can support you throughout the process of deciding what you are going to do and for whom.

We are available to come into team meetings to give you background information about the local voluntary sector and discuss with your team how they can really make a difference.

We can make the initial approaches to local organisations for you, and facilitate the links.

Once your event has been completed your organisation may be eligible for a Corporate Supporters Award to recognise your hard work so let us know how you get on!

If you would like to develop a more long term strategy for working with the voluntary sector we can support you with this process and assist you with your planning.

For more information please contact Crawley CVS on 01293 657000 or info@crawleycvs.org

www.crawleycvs.org