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Volunteer Newsletter - Autumn 2018

Hello Volunteer !

Well, like it or not, there is no doubt that Christmas is coming! We receive lots of enquiries at this time of year from people wanting to volunteer with us over the Christmas holidays. As SPEAR doesn't run shelters or soup kitchens, and many of our hostel residents may be visiting family or friends, we don't engage volunteers specifically at this time.

However, please see below for details of lots of events we are holding in the lead up to Christmas, and a couple of other (regular) volunteer roles, where we really need your help, so please do take a look at the dates and support us where you can!

Over the coming months, I will be carrying out a review of SPEAR's volunteering programme, looking at, amongst other things, what works well and what we could do better, with a view to defining a new strategy for volunteering. I will shortly be sending out a **Volunteer Survey** and would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete this, as your feedback will be extremely useful. I will naturally share the results of both the survey and the review in due course.

Whilst the review is taking place, *we have temporarily paused volunteer recruitment* and are not accepting new volunteer applications. However, if you are interested in volunteering at one of the events below and are already on our volunteer mailing list (and therefore receiving this email), but have not yet completed an application form, please just make us aware of this when you respond, and we will ask you to complete an application at that point.

Thanks as always for your continued support.

With warm regards,

Julie
Volunteering Officer
Tel: 020 7036 9764



Beata Bartnicka, Peer Mentor

Beata first started volunteering with SPEAR back in April 2016, when, as a SPEAR service user, she became involved in the Service User Involvement Group. Since that time she has helped with so many of our fundraising activities, being a regular fixture on the SPEAR stall at various fairs, helping out with collection days and attending & supporting SPEAR client and public events. In addition her creative talents have been really appreciated in creating beautiful Christmas baubles (and encouraging others to get involved), SPEAR banners and posters, and wrapping Christmas presents.

Beata qualified as a Peer Mentor in April 2018 and since then she has also been supporting our Homeless Health Link Service (HHLS) on a regular basis – attending various drop-ins & visiting our hostels to chat with clients and support them. She also accompanies clients to their health and other appointments and occasionally visits them in their homes.



Beata has become such a valued SPEAR volunteer. Her lived experience of some of the issues our clients face is really appreciated, but her patience and excellent listening skills, combined with her natural warmth allow her to connect with and support clients on a deeper level.

Thank you Beata!

It's Volunteer Awards season!



We were very excited to hear that our clothing and stylist volunteers, Sarah and Kate had been shortlisted for the Team London Awards in the Social Mobility – Volunteer Team category! They attended the awards ceremony held at London City Hall on Monday, 15th October and, although they didn't win, we are so proud of them that they reached the final 4 in their category and that their fantastic work on such an innovative project has been recognised in this way.

More of our wonderful volunteers, including this month's Spotlight volunteer, Beata, have been nominated for the Richmond Community Heroes

Awards this year too, so we hope to be able to bring good news once the results are announced – although competition looks especially fierce this year! Fingers crossed!



Over the coming weeks our Fundraising Team need your support with the following. If you are able to help please contact them directly on: fundraising@spearlondon.org:

Sunday, 25th November (2pm – 6pm): **Twickenham Christmas lights – SPEAR bauble stall**

Volunteers needed to help on the stall for an hour or two.

Saturday, 1st December (10am – 12noon): **Kingston Leaflet Drop**

Volunteers needed to leaflet drop around Kingston to tell local residents about the Christmas Carol Wagon coming up later in the month.

Sunday, 2nd December (11am – 7.30pm): **Winter Wonderland, Wimbledon**

Volunteers needed to help on SPEAR bauble stall for an hour or two. The more the merrier!

Thursday, 6th December (approx. 6pm – 8pm tbc): **Kingston Round Table Carol Wagon** Volunteers needed to follow Santa's sleigh around Kingston and collect donations. Singing encouraged but not mandatory! A really fun, festive evening.

Friday, 7th December (2pm – 5pm): **Willington School, Wimbledon – SPEAR Bauble stall** Volunteers needed to help on the stall.

Saturday, 15th December (2.30pm – 4.30pm): **Manontropo at Centre Court Shopping Centre, Wimbledon.** Volunteers needed to give out leaflets, collect donations and interact with the public.

In addition, we could use help with the following:

Winter Night Shelter, Kingston: – Are you an Early Bird? Would you be available to support our Health Link Team at the Kingston Night Shelter for a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning from 6.30am. Please contact **me** if you think you might be able to help

Administration Volunteer, Fundraising: – Are you a whizz on Word, an expert on Excel, a filing fanatic or a database diamond? and have a bit of time on your hands? Our Fundraising and communications team could use some additional

SPEAR Key Policy Training: All of you volunteering in *regular* roles, should attend our Key Policy Training – ideally as early in your volunteer journey with us as possible. We are holding our next training next Wednesday, 7th November in Twickenham. If I haven't already contacted you, but you think that you should be attending this, please get in touch with **me** as soon as possible so that we can book you on!

Once again Richmond MIND are opening up their training courses to any Richmond-based volunteers. This time it is '**Facebook for Beginners**' and will take place on Wednesday, 28th November 2–4pm in Twickenham. If you are a current SPEAR volunteer and would like to attend, please contact **me** in the first instance.



Our recruitment at SPEAR continues. Right now we are recruiting to the following positions:

- **Trainee Outreach Worker** to support our Wandsworth outreach service. 1 year fixed term contract. Closing date is tomorrow (2nd November)

More details and application packs [here](#).

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Do you shop online? Did you know that many internet stores will donate a percentage of your purchase to SPEAR at no extra cost to you if you access their website through easyfundraising.org.uk

Registering takes a couple of minutes and after that every e-purchase you make could help support our work.

Thank you!

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