

Workshop Presentation

Topic: Volunteering of Youth

Building Social Responsibility Among Student Volunteers

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We aim to share how an award winning hospice has successfully contributed to building society through working with student volunteers in the Hospice. It also aims to demonstrate how student volunteers can benefit from such a community involvement. Volunteer Hosting Organisations (VHO) have a role to play in building society through working with student volunteers. While volunteers' input are often directed at benefitting the clients of the VHO, there are times when the organisation can divert its energy in volunteer management to benefit the society at large. This paper will discuss one of such programs that has been incorporated into the mainstream volunteer program of the hospice in Singapore. The Student Program combines Community-Involvement-Programme (which is compulsory for all secondary school students in Singapore) with service learning.

This program has been proven successful in inculcating a sense of social responsibility in the students thus preparing them for active citizenship when they graduate to the corporate world. The key factors contributing to the success of this student program in the Hospice include - (1) Putting in place a Trainer's Program for hosts who work with students on their projects. (2) Strategic marketing of the program to relevant schools and education institutions. (3) Assisting students in applying accepted service learning techniques in their community projects. (4) Helping students realise their goals and objectives through designing workplace projects that can truly benefit clients. (5) Giving students a sense of accomplishment and achievement through objective and constructive debrief at the end of the program.