

11 November 2011

Press Release

CHARITY GROUP COMES TO CRC TO INSPIRE VOLUNTEERS

A Cambridge charity which uses arts projects to transform the lives of people with disabilities is looking for more volunteers to help run its activities.

Inspire, which organises Creative Days and unique Funky Club nights, visited Cambridge Regional College this week to encourage more youngsters to take up volunteering.

The group has already inspired three CRC students to help at the club nights – held at the Junction in Cambridge – and is hoping more will follow their example.



Looking for volunteers: Megan Day, Karen Bolam and Laura King

Laura King, a personal support tutor at CRC who also works at Inspire, said the charity's activities made a real difference to the lives of people with disabilities.

"The club night is extremely important within the 'disabled world'. It is a place where people with disabilities can dance, have fun and socialise within a safe environment," she said.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for disabled people to meet new people and see a lot of old faces. We have different rooms to cater for different people's needs, from a chill out room to a clubbing room, and we get hundreds of people coming along."

A significant part of the Funky Club is run by disabled adults, from the steering group to DJs, performers and stewards, but volunteers play a large part in the event. Inspire's visit to CRC was part of a general campaign to encourage more helpers to get involved.

The charity has been running original arts projects with people who have disabilities or long-term health problems since 1986, helping them overcome difficulties, learn new skills and improve their quality of life. Creative Days for disabled adults help them explore and expand their creativity through arts and media programmes.

The charity's next Funky Club night is in February next year. To find out more about Inspire, or to talk about volunteering, contact Karen Bolam on 01223 441106.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.