



BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2010

ROUNDUP

One year after the H.E.L.P. project began, we can look back and see it has been a highly stimulating pilot project. Funded by Hastings Borough Council and hosted by Hastings Trust, H.E.L.P. had some great successes despite the difficult economic climate. H.E.L.P. core goals were met or surpassed within the constrained timetable. These were to set up bespoke work placements for local people with local businesses, charities and social enterprises (we also offered support with risk assessment and health and safety). Placements were wide-ranging including painting and decorating, retail, gardening, art galleries, admin and car mechanics. Many clients continued their placements into volunteering and a good proportion found meaningful employment.

We refunded clients' travel costs and other expenses. We helped fund qualifications for clients. We encouraged positive self-development by providing training courses in First Aid, Risk Assessment, Health & Safety, Motivation/Self-confidence, working in an Art gallery and a preparatory course for clients wishing to gain a CSCS test for the construction industry. With most clients, we assessed their C.V.'s, helping to improve them where necessary. We helped with covering letters, interview techniques and informal careers advice. We have also helped clients to return to education from Basic Literacy and Numeracy to higher NVQs.

NEWS

The H.E.L.P. project ceased to operate at the end of September. However, Hastings Trust applied for BIG Lottery 'Reaching Communities' Programme funding to create and operate a new project 'Community Enablers' which will expand on H.E.L.P. and also build on the Trust's expertise in community development and welfare to work. We have now received the exciting news that the Trust have been successful in its bid for three-year funding.

H.E.L.P. OUTCOMES

People into voluntary work	13	Employment support to employer	33
People into paid employment	13	Skills development/training	100+
Work placements completed	42	Taster activities	47
Employers who signed H.E.L.P. Pledge	32		

TESTIMONIALS

Martin L, 'If it wasn't for H.E.L.P. I would still be unemployed...the Health & Safety and First Aid training and certificates boosted my C.V. and I gained references from Hastings Trust and Tivoli Autos which gave me up-to-date ones for my C.V....before H.E.L.P. I was going round in circles and starting to give up hope...'

Deborah H, 'Ben found the perfect placement for me, enabling me to regain my confidence in the workplace and also giving me structure and inspiration...Hastings Trust has offered me invaluable support and I would recommend them to anyone seeking employment and advice.'

Kevin C, 'A massive thanks for your help towards my employment. Couldn't have done it without you. Thanks ever so much.'

With our sincere thanks to all who contributed towards the Hastings EmployAbility Link Project.

Heather Smith, Steve Shonk and Ben Browton

H.E.L.P. clients on their placements



Deborah H at Visionary Soap



Lorraine A at Mencap



Ian M at Xtrax



Avril B at Poundland



Chris G at Cambridge Gardens



Martin L at Tivoli Autos



Veronique S. at Emmaus



Craig S at Poundland



Alex S at Mencap



Kevin B at Travis Perkins

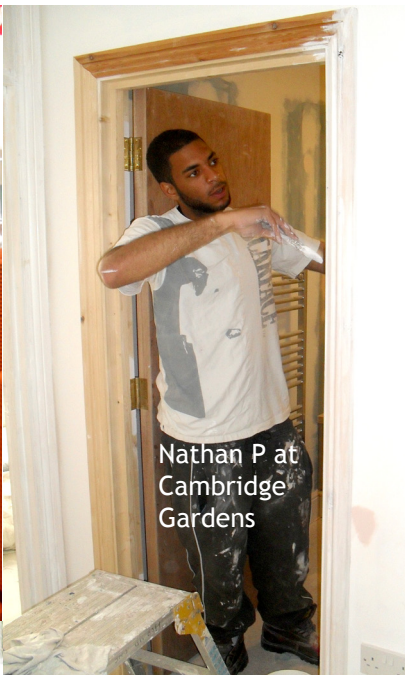


Mara T at Poundland

Giles D at Emmaus



Kevin W at Poundland



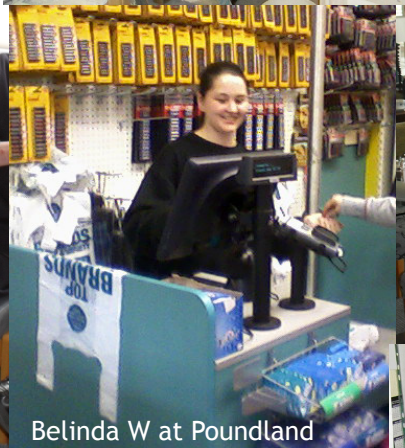
Nathan P at Cambridge Gardens



Avril B at Scope



Karen S at Mencap



Belinda W at Poundland



Billie-Jean G at White Rock Hotel



Kevin C with Westoaks



Malvin K at Community Fruit & Veg



Alison P at Harley Reed



Gerard E at Friary Gardens



Janina M at Mencap



Cr aig R at Mencap

H.E.L.P. staff; Heather Smith (Training and Development), Steve Shonk (Employer Liaison), Ben Browton (Personal Advisor), Lorraine Wrightson (Admin Assistant), Martin Shillam (Careers Advisor), Hetty Austen (Personal Development).

Steering Group; John Hodges, Esther Brown, Susan Santos. Graham Coffey and Roger Dando

With our very special thanks to Mel Bonney-Kane, Kevin Carías, Carol Biggs, Ray Matthews, Patsy Solanki, Simon Hedges, Sue Giles, Gaynor Ripley, Alison Clark, Aaron Hosannah, Eric Moore, Jim and Jane Ingram, Joel Greig, Kary Backhouse and Sue Heath.

The H.E.L.P. project has worked with, and is indebted to, the following organisations:

