

Digging a Little Deeper

YPI is all about identifying those small, local, grass roots charities that are truly impacting upon a social service issue and effecting change in the community. To small charities £3000 has the potential to make a huge difference. However, it's sometimes difficult to uncover those very small charities that do such vital work in our communities. We hope the following information will help you dig a little deeper when looking for really local charities:



The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) is the independent regulator and registrar for over 23,000 Scottish charities- www.oscr.org.uk

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is the national body for Scotland's charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises. SCVO works in partnership with over 1300 members to develop shared values and interests, and impact upon the people and communities that they support. The site includes an excellent database, and links to Regional Voluntary organisation Councils in Aberdeenshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth & Kinross- www.scvo.org.uk

TOP TIPS- Finding Really Local Charities

1. Local and regional newspaper archives are an excellent source of information- you may just uncover an unknown charity.
2. Visit your local Community Centre and speak with the Community Planning Partnership or Community Learning & Development (CLD) team.
3. Your local nursing home will have strong connections with charities and community groups. Who are they working with?
4. Contact your local sports/leisure centre and ask what charities they support and serve locally.

TOP TIPS- Charities! Make the Most of YPI

In order to maximise the benefits to charities of being involved and engaging with YPI we've put together some Top Tips designed to help our charities really make the most of YPI.

1. Think about the impact £3000 could have on your charity; consider what the £3000 could be specifically spent on and share this with your students.
2. Be creative in how you welcome and introduce students to your charity.
3. Could the students support the service you provide in different ways?
4. YPI explores what you do, how you do it & how you finance it- be prepared for questioning!

Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the YPI Newsletter. This issue celebrates the hard work of students, teachers, schools and the hundreds of charities involved in YPI, and is packed with success stories, information and shared experiences.

After the success and excitement of June's National Event in Aberdeen, we have not stopped as we prepare for the new school year, and look forward to the twelve months ahead that will see YPI grow across Scotland, with even more small charities benefiting from all your hard work.

Our team at the Wood Family Trust continues to grow with YPI. In addition to Elaine Manley and Charis Melvin, our Aberdeen City & Shire and Edinburgh Facilitators, we would also like to welcome Maggie Clark and Lynn Raynal who join our Facilitator Team to support Perth & Kinross, and Greater Glasgow. Furthermore, we also have a new national coordinator for YPI, Jonathan Christie, who will be responsible for managing the standard, quality, delivery, sustainability and growth of YPI across Scotland, as well as organising the National Event in June 2012.

"As a charity, YPI has been extremely beneficial to us - not only in raising funds but by helping us reach young people and getting them interested in our charity. Outside of YPI, several of the groups who chose to support us have continued their support - this is very heartening. I look forward to working with more groups in the future."

Archway Aberdeen.

2011/12 Resource Guide

The new Resource Guide is packed with information, lesson plans and worksheets- all designed to make the programme both engaging and user friendly from the outset. This year we have developed Top Tips for each session that provide great ideas and cross curricular links. The new timeline is a fantastic tool that supports YPI planning. We have also mapped YPI against the Curriculum for Excellence to show how YPI helps young people to become successful learners, responsible citizens, confident individuals and effective contributors. Finally, we introduce this year a new plenary session that allows each student to reflect upon what they have achieved and learned through YPI, and better understand how YPI has impacted upon their employability skills, values and confidence, as well as considering how they can stay engaged with their chosen charity- Downloadable copies available from www.GoYPI.org

After YPI- Post Programme Engagement

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An exciting trend developing across YPI Scotland is the level to which young people are choosing to remain engaged with their charity- volunteering time, volunteering talent, and continuing to raise awareness and fundraise, long after YPI has finished. Let us know what you've been up to so that we can share more great stories.

Mackie Academy, Aberdeenshire

After winning their YPI Finals at Mackie Academy through an excellent presentation about Cross Reach, the winning group continued their support at the charity's local base 'The Bungalow'. Throughout the summer months the team were central to the planning and development of a sensory garden for The Bungalow's service users. This involved giving up both time and talent, negotiating material prices with local businesses, and expending a huge amount of energy and labour.

"The work done through YPI is invaluable – as there is not only the monetary contribution which goes towards physical improvement, but there is a real sense of breaking down barriers

between us and the community. We are so grateful to the young men for their contribution".

Kathleen Keith, Manager at The Bungalow.

George Heriot's School, Edinburgh

The winning YPI team from George Heriot's School supported the Scottish Veterans' Residence (SVR) with funding going towards new (much needed) gym equipment. However, their work did not stop there. After considering where best they could further support SVR, the group identified an social media as a potential area for development. Louise Frame went on to support SVR in establishing facebook and twitter pages which have proven to be an absolute asset to the charity.

"Now I really see the benefit of helping other people and want to carry on. I have continued to help out at SVR and I have been updating the social networking sites to help raise the profile of the charity. It is going well and we are getting more followers by the day!"

Louise Frame, George Heriot's School pupil.

YPI End of Year Event 2011

We were blown away by the hard work of everyone involved with YPI last year and, as such, it was quite a responsibility to organise an event that would recognise this. On June 21st we invited all of our winning groups along to the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen for an evening of entertainment, presentations and celebration. We were delighted to welcome almost 400 YPI supporters along to share in the revelry and enjoy entertainment from Miss Autonomy, Outbox, City Moves Dance Group and the Guarana drummers.

It was wonderful to hear so many different YPI stories and the many ways in which the programme impacts upon people, from participants and their teachers, to local charities and our partner organisations that support YPI in regions across Scotland.

We are already busy sourcing venues for next year in order to make the end of year event bigger and better still – we hope that everyone will be able to make it along in June 2012 when we will be hosting the evening in Glasgow... watch this space for more information.



Take Pride in YPI

YPI has already been highlighted by HMIE as an example of best practice within Citizenship Education in a number of school reports- do remember to share your successes with us, perhaps in HMIE Reports or maybe the local press acknowledging a YPI job well done!

"Because of YPI I feel more involved in my local community. Community is not something separate from me, but something that I am a part of. I understand how important it is for people like you and me to get out there and do something in order to help make a difference."

Ellon Academy pupil.

YPI Photography Competition

This year we are looking to gather the very best examples of YPI photography from around Scotland to showcase in our publicity materials. There will be a number of categories and the winning photographs will be displayed at the End of Year Event, where prizes will be awarded. The 2011/12 categories are:

- **Charity Visit- does the photo really capture your charity engagement?**
- **YPI in Action- this photo captures your commitment to YPI & hours of hard work.**
- **Final presentation- think outside the box, the more creative the better!**
- **Overall best Photo- in one shot this photo perfectly sums up your YPI.**

"I am delighted to be part of YPI and feel proud that the Bank of Scotland invests in the local community through YPI. The social and employability skills that the students learn through the initiative will support future employment. Furthermore, Bank of Scotland employee engagement in YPI supports professional development."

Kerry Ann O'Neill, Bank of Scotland (Exclusive Funder of YPI in Greater Glasgow).

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Wood Family Trust

Wood Family Trust
PRINCIPAL FUNDER & OPERATIONAL
MANAGER OF YPI IN SCOTLAND
www.woodfamilytrust.org.uk

Remember to check us out on Facebook, twitter
and our website www.GoYPI.com





This year's winning team from St Margaret's School for Girls, along with a representative from Aberdeen Lifeboats and Lady Helen Wood, a Trustee of the Wood Family Trust

What do teachers think of YPI?

"YPI is an excellent project for our pupils to be involved with. Pupils quickly become very involved and I really think they learned a lot from doing it. All of the charities we worked with were very accommodating and gave generously of their time. The girls from the winning team thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Edinburgh"

Louise MacDonald
Kincorth Academy, Aberdeen

"Everyone who took part was very positive indeed about the project. There was a real buzz about YPI during and after the project."

Mike Elder
Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen

"The project has been a huge success and one of the teachers who has been delivering has said she enjoyed it so much she could do it full time!"

Collette Hemmati
Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh

"It's events like this that make you remember why you are doing this job. YPI is one of the best things I have seen at the school for the past 5 years."

David Gray – (Principal)
Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh

What's happening at YPI?

Welcome to the first ever YPI Scotland newsletter, designed for students, teachers and charities to keep in touch with what's happening with the programme, and share experience, stories and success.

Things have been pretty busy at YPI this year now that we're working with nearly 50 schools across Scotland, almost double our 25 participating schools in 2009/10. As well as growing the number of schools we are working with in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, YPI is now in 10 schools across the Greater Glasgow Region.

In order to maintain the level of programme support that we pride ourselves on, the YPI team has also grown and I am pleased to officially welcome Elaine Manley and Charis Melvin onboard. Elaine has been working with schools in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire and Charis is looking forward to starting working with our Edinburgh cohort this term.

Another big change is that the Wood Family Trust, who are the principal funder of YPI in Scotland, have now taken on the operational management of the project. This means that we can dedicate ourselves to enhancing the programme here in Scotland and ensuring that we achieve best possible fit within the Curriculum for Excellence, remaining relevant for Scottish schools.

We are already well under way with preparations for this year's Celebration Event. For those of you who travelled to The Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh last year, you'll know how big the party is! This year we are hosting the event in Aberdeen on the 21st June at the Beach Ballroom. Invitations are in the post, and we hope that all of our winning teams and charities will be represented on the day. Last year we were lucky enough to be entertained by Ed Sheeran, however this year he is busy knocking Rhianna off the top spot on the i-tunes chart – well done Ed! Make sure you're there to find out who we have on the bill this time round.

This newsletter contains some information and advice from people who are involved with YPI from pupils to teachers and, of course, a winning charity. This is the first of many, so if you have any top tips, ideas or questions that you'd like to share with the YPI Scotland community, then please do drop me a line. Alternatively, we've recently gone digital and now have a YPI Fanpage on Facebook - feel free to get involved with the fun and put your views out to other YPI fans around the world. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading about what other YPI participants have been getting up to!

Thanks, Sarah

(YPI Coordinator for Scotland)
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Sarah Moore, YPI Scotland Coordinator

The Impact of YPI: A Charity's Perspective

We were involved with the YPI project last year and thought that it was an excellent initiative and a good way for us to build relationships with local schools.

The girls from Ellon Academy were brilliant throughout the project. I met with them a couple of times and also spoke with them on the phone and I have to say I was very impressed by their maturity and the amount of work that they put into their presentation. The research that they did was absolutely fantastic, all we had to do was give them the information about what we do and they put everything together into a very good presentation. They really went above and beyond.

We've Won!! A winning team reflect upon their journey.

What charity did you choose for YPI and why?

We chose Befriend a Child as it was really important to us that the charity was local. It is a small charity and not many people knew about them, which appealed to us. We all felt passionate about what they do to help children in our area.

Did you visit your charity? Any advice for groups organising their visit?

The visit was brilliant – the staff were really friendly and made time to show us round. We felt much more connected to the charity afterwards. Don't be shy and ask lots of questions, we planned these before we went which was good. Bring a map!

What did you enjoy most about YPI?

Making friendships – we've all been at the same school for five years, but never really spent any time together. Visiting the charity and doing our research together was great, and we've definitely made good friendships from the experience.

Would you recommend YPI to other students?

Definitely. When we started we were studying for our Higher prelims and were all a bit stressed out and worried at having something else to do, however it wasn't like that at all. It was great to have something totally different to focus on, it took your mind off homework and because it wasn't for an exam, it made you want to work hard for your team and for the charity.

What do you feel you've learned from YPI?

I learned that I am actually more confident than I thought when meeting new people.

My organisational skills are definitely better, sometimes you need to plan ahead (and bring a map!) and the value of good teamwork.

A big well done to the winning S5 team from Banchory Academy; Gemma Honey, Katherine McLellan, Fiona Leiper, Kelly Coutts and Kirsten Marshall

We are still in contact with the girls and they have been doing some work with us since the competition finished. Over Christmas they donated baskets of gifts for the mums who live in our refuges which was a really lovely surprise for them.

The £3000 will be a great boost for us, especially in the current economic climate. We are planning to use the money from our YPI grant to take on some sessional workers to work with the women in our refuge centres in order to help them build their confidence and employability skills so that they can rebuild a life for themselves.

Thank you Ellon Academy and YPI!

Karen Goodrum, Grampian Women's Aid

Ed Sheeran – performing at last year's End of Year Celebration – how could we possibly top Ed this year? Save the date, 21st June 2011! Make sure you're there! Tuesday 21st June 2011 Aberdeen Beach Ballroom



Top Tips for your YPI Final

1. It is best to hold your finals on an evening if possible so that more guests can attend.
2. Make sure you invite a wide range of people – parents, pupils, charities representatives, teachers, local business and politicians.
3. The finals can be an excellent chance for some positive publicity for the school – why not invite along a local newspaper?
4. It is great to get the rest of the school involved, maybe students from the music department could perform at the break, or home economics students could cater for the event?
5. Remember to take plenty of photographs of the event or maybe even film it.
6. Lots of schools raise or receive donations for second and third prizes for charities, why not think about doing something similar in your school?
7. Choose your judging panel carefully, it's great to have a student voice; Head Boy or Girl? Last year's winner? Invite a couple of external representatives, perhaps a member of the local business community, local media, or a politician?

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