Volunteers Week 2020: Hundreds of organisations join forces to say 'thank you' to their fantastic volunteers

 (*insert name of your organisation*) are delighted to be part of a collaborative action of organisations championing a united response for Volunteers' Week 1-7 June. This week Volunteer Managers across the UK are coming together to say a massive *thank you* to all volunteers.

Volunteers have played a vital role from the floods in the winter to helping the nation through the current pandemic. They will go on to play a role in helping the nation get back to the things that we love as we ease out of lockdown. By joining forces in Volunteers Week 2020, we are aiming to increase visibility of the vital efforts that all volunteers have made this year.

Throughout the week organisations across the UK will be showcasing the amazing contribution volunteers have made. As a (*insert your sector area / organisation*) we will be joining in with others on (*insert the day*) to recognise the support given to our cause by our volunteers.

Starting on Monday 1st June the themes and focus for each day of volunteers' week are as follows:

- Monday - Listening & Support
- Tuesday - Health & Well-being
- Wednesday - Fundraising to support service delivery
- Thursday - COVID-19 response and informal community civic action
- Friday - Nature & the Outdoors
- Saturday - Arts & Culture
- Sunday - Sport & Leisure

Volunteers at (*insert name of your organisation*) have been sharing their experience so watch out for some fantastic stories throughout the week. One of our volunteers shared *his/her* story…

Insert Case study

 (*insert name*) *Volunteer Manager/ appropriate title* said: "our volunteers are amazing and we value their support and contribution to our cause. Without their commitment and enthusiasm we would not be able to deliver our service to the exceptional level we do. We know that many are volunteering to support the consequences of COVID-19. This might be through organised volunteering or by stepping up informally to support their community. For others, it's a challenging time as they are unable to volunteer in their much loved roles. Whether our volunteers are still active or currently taking a break we want to take this opportunity during Volunteers Week to send a **big shout out** and **say thank you**!"

#volunteersweek
#WaveForVolunteers
#NeverMoreNeeded

Notes for the Editor:

- Volunteers Week is a yearly national week taking place 1-7 June. It is a chance to celebrate and say thank you for the contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK.
- Volunteer Scotland, WCVA and Volunteer Now in NI coordinate Volunteers Week in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- In England, there is a strong movement of over 80 organisations, led by a group of volunteers, who are getting behind a collaborative effort to champion the importance of Volunteers Week in England.
- We believe in the current time it is even more important to recognise, reach out to and connect together volunteers to share their good news stories.
- It is a strange time for volunteering. There is a mixture of those who feel isolated as they can't do their usual roles due to the crisis, as well as volunteers who are doing many more hours in frontline roles. There are millions of people who have volunteered to help out, whether informally in their community or as part of organised initiatives, such as the NHS volunteer responders. We also want to thank and remember those volunteers who have lost their lives due to COVID-19.
- Volunteers will also be essential as we come out of the pandemic and people start to re-engage back into their lives, potentially with very different priorities.
- For these reasons (insert name of organisation) will be coming together with others, to recognise this collective moment in the time. We want to thank and connect volunteers, who are so crucial both now and for our ability to respond as we gradually recover.
- Volunteers Week 2020 will include organisations and individuals joining in thanking volunteers by using the Wave of Appreciation, begun in Volunteers Week Australia in May.
- The #WaveForVolunteers social media campaign will encouraging as many as possible to take a photo of themselves saying thank you to volunteers
- Volunteers Week 2020 connects closely with the #NeverMoreNeeded campaign launched to help the public understand the importance of charities to the national effort to manage the coronavirus pandemic. The #NeverMoreNeeded campaign has been set up to make sure charities' voices are heard and raise awareness of the work they are doing to help the country come through the crisis and recover. The campaign is phase two of the #EveryDayCounts campaign, which called on the government to provide an emergency financial support package for charities
- For more details on the volunteer-led collective effort for Volunteers Week in England, contact Tiger de Souza on *07920 246638 or tiger.desouza@nationaltrust.org.uk*