



Staff employee volunteering day in Chelmsford



Building the relationship

Several months ago our Volunteer Co-ordinator and Charity Engagement Manager met with the QBE Foundation co-ordinator (part of QBE Insurance) to explain about the work we do and how we are the right organisation to assist in securing opportunities for their relatively new employee volunteering scheme. QBE knew that it was good practice to have their staff do 'good' within the community but did not know which organisation they could start off by helping. Our work with an extensive range of charities and voluntary & community groups across Chelmsford makes us the perfect organisation to work with as we know which groups would greatly benefit from local business support.

Following further meetings and several emails later, QBE agreed that they would like to investigate further one of our suggestions; namely to send in a team from their HR department to possibly decorate parts of the local Women's' Refuge.

A date was set and Chelmsford 4 Good arranged and accompanied a member of the QBE team on a site inspection where it was decided that with sufficient staff they could possibly paint both of the two kitchen and dining rooms. At that stage of the process, the refuge was to supply all the materials.

Success

Yes this was a project QBE wanted to get involved with and when a date was confirmed for carrying out the work QBE agreed not only to send in a team of nine employees but also that they would pay for all the materials as well!

Several days before the work was due to begin QBE staff revisited the refuge to gauge how much paint was needed and gave the final choice of the colour scheme to the refuge.

On the day

When the day arrived, QBE employee volunteers were divided into two groups and set to work firstly cleaning then masking the edges prior to painting.

The staff at the refuge were on hand throughout the day to make cups of tea and coffee and were overwhelmed by the amount of hard work that QBE put in to get the job done. Several coats later and less than hour before the kitchens were needed by the residents both kitchen diners had been completed.

At different stages throughout the day Chelmsford 4 Good visited to see how the work was progressing. There was great camaraderie amongst the team members and a determination to get the job completed within the time frame. It was clear that it had been a very worthwhile team bonding exercise and one that can be replicated in the future.

Now much brighter and cleaner the residents are able to enjoy their new homely surroundings - such a fantastic job!

"I am delighted that some of our HR team were able to give back to the local community with the support of Chelmsford 4 Good. We hope to encourage more of our employees to volunteer for charities in the area through Chelmsford 4 Good, who made the process of corporate volunteering very easy. The team thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt a real sense of achievement in helping such a worthy cause."

Foundation Co-ordinator of The QBE Foundation part of QBE Insurance



One of the finished kitchens and dining areas

“The QBE volunteering project was immensely helpful to us on a number of levels. Obviously it is fantastic to have two freshly painted kitchen-diners as it makes the area so much more warm, friendly and welcoming for our residents, creating a homely feel which is so important in projects like this. The residents were also very happy to welcome the volunteers, and it helped boost their self-esteem to know that there are people out there willing to give up their time and resources to help make life a little better for them.

Clearly this initiative would have been unlikely to happen were it not for our good relationship with Chelmsford 4 Good and their efforts to support our service. We are hugely appreciative that you were able to facilitate the project and extend our sincere thanks to all involved. The whole process was positive and a pleasure to be a part of.”

Safer Places Services Manager, Mid Essex

Give Employee Time to Volunteer

Could you give your staff a little bit of paid time off to give to a community project? Contact Chelmsford 4 Good - our new charity project that works to encourage local businesses to support local charities with time, resources, equipment and skills. To find out more visit: www.chelmsford4good.org.uk or call **01245 280731**.