

Gi TALKS

VOLUNTEERING

Gi Group UK employees are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing their time and skills in supporting their local communities. As part of this, significant numbers of our team have volunteered their time and expertise to support socially-led causes in the last 12 months.

Here Aaron Simpson-King talks about his involvement in various volunteering activities.



Name

AARON SIMPSON-KING

Job Title

BRANCH MANAGER

Employer

Gi GROUP UK

Location

HULL

Q1 What made you first put your name forward for volunteering activity?

I simply wanted to contribute to my local community and experience participating in a volunteering event.

I wanted to use my skills and experience to make a positive impact somewhere.

Q2 What projects have you been involved in?

I have been involved in several different employability projects at various schools in Scunthorpe, Hull and Goole.

I have also participated in the annual BiTC Give and Gain Day with colleagues from Gi Group UK, in fact, I am organising a Give and Gain Day event this year at Goole Academy working with 195 students.

Q3 What have you gained personally from the experience?

I now have a greater appreciation of how diverse and unique my local community is and my eyes have been opened to the challenges and struggles many different people go through on a day to day basis.

The fact that something as simple as donating some of my time to volunteering can have a huge impact on some people's lives – that I can make a positive difference and influence the way they may deal with future choices and opportunities.

Q4 How do you think the activity has positively impacted those you've supported?

I think that some people assumed that you would have to get a University degree or be extremely intelligent to secure a professional job – now they know that this is not the case!

I didn't go to Uni and wouldn't consider myself to be exceptionally intelligent but I hold a management position – it has been good for people to see that and learn about my career path.

I have taken steps to reinforce that someone from a diverse and/or minority background or who is not academic can actually secure a professional job – with hard work and determination. It has also shown the people we have volunteered with that people do actually care and want to help them develop and create a future for them.

Q5 What would you say to someone considering voluntary work or introducing a programme in their organisation?

Be open minded and prepare yourself for hard work.

Give it a go, don't be put off, listen to what people have to say and work with them, persevere and adapt – it is so rewarding!

Q6 What does 'responsible business' mean to you?

For me this means that we care and want to invest our own time in the local and wider communities to develop a better environment.

Being accepting of all and encouraging each individual to reach their full potential without making money from it!