

**YMCA
BOURNEMOUTH**

Bournemouth/Poole/Christchurch

YMCA



In
partnership
with:



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS newsletter

November 2020

Funded by:



A bit of background

Next year we celebrate 10 years of hosting full time volunteers at YMCA Bournemouth with 56 coming so far from other countries and 13 from the local area.



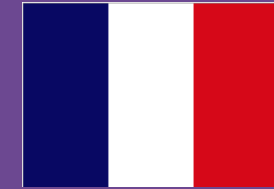
The programme has evolved a lot over the years with more and more of our YMCA departments hosting ESC volunteers and now we are supporting other local charities to host their own ESC volunteers too. Faithworks Wessex, Somerford Youth and Community Centre and The Water Lily Project all applied for their accreditation earlier this year and are now hosting a total of 6 volunteers through the European Solidarity Corps.

“Our ESC volunteers inspire me, they come from so many different places and backgrounds and are shining examples of young people who are full of compassion, courage and character. They truly are treasured gems that make up the beauty of the YMCA around the world.”

Gareth Sherwood (YMCA Bournemouth’s CEO)



In this newsletter, we highlight some of our more recent ESC volunteers and showcase their inspirational stories in these difficult times.



Aurelie from France

Our first ESC volunteer to be placed in the Building Services department, Aurelie has only been out of quarantine a few weeks and is already painting, plastering and wallpapering her way across the YMCA.

“She’s just so brilliant, dedicated and hard-working. Aurelie has really integrated into our team like she’s one of us.”

Quote from Jonathan, Building & Services, Facilities, IT & Protection/ Compliance Manager



Sophie from Germany

The YMCA’s Junction Leisure Centre in Broadstone has been hosting ESC volunteers for 6 years. Sophie arrived in September and is supporting a number of children’s activities including swimming and holiday clubs.

“Sophie has made an excellent start at the Junction Sports & Leisure Centre, she was a great asset during school holiday clubs and is very enthusiastic. I am looking forward to spending the next 6 months working together.”

Quote by Jason Thomas, Sales and Marketing Manager at The Junction





Henry from the UK

Completing his volunteering in Delta House during lockdown earlier this year, Henry said “I wanted to volunteer because I wanted to prove to myself that I could stick at something. I wanted to give back to the YMCA. I have really enjoyed my time volunteering through this project, and I look forward to the potential opportunities it could open up.”



Iringó from Hungary

Following a long line of predecessors, Iringó is the newest addition to the YMCA Chaplaincy Team. Hailing from Hungary, Iringó is enjoying interacting with the YMCA residents, leading activities and supporting our chaplaincy work. “Iringó is passionate about people, always looking for ways in which she can build up and encourage them whenever possible.”

Quote from Ryan from Chaplaincy Team



Antonella from Italy and Estrella from Spain

Volunteering most of their time at The Water Lily Project in Christchurch, Antonella and Estrella have mastered the art of English café cooking! They both undertook quarantines to arrive earlier this year at the height of lockdown. They take the PPE and social distancing measures very seriously, protecting café customers and bringing their unique experiences to the organisation which supports victims of domestic violence.

“It was amazing that Antonella was able to fly out of Italy just before it locked down and join us. Estrella was soon able to come too. They enabled us to open up the Cafe after lockdown, when other volunteers were still shielding. They also supported our family cookery course in August and showed how well they can support children.”

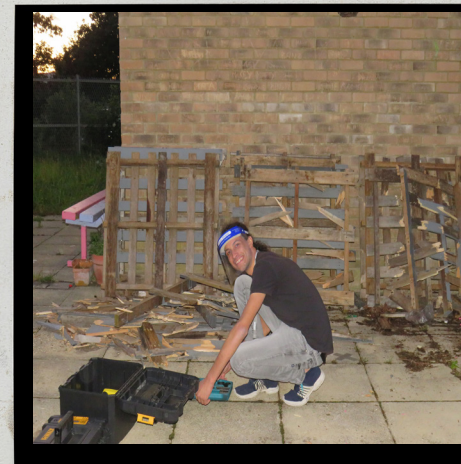
Quote from Jan, Trustee at The Water Lily Project



Bruno from Italy

The latest volunteer to join the YMCA Youth Work department, Bruno brings his infectious smiles and energy to assist across all our youth clubs and projects. “Since arriving in the UK Bruno has taken part in many activities, sharing his unique skills and personality. The staff and young people at the YMCA think the world of him and he is definitely an asset to the organisation.”

Quote from Glen, Volunteer Coordinator



Márton from Hungary

The first long term volunteer to join Somerford Youth and Community Centre, Márton has brought his music and technical expertise to the youth club.

“Márton is always so eager to help us out and he gets on really well with all the staff here at the Somerford Centre.”

Quote from Jae, Manager of Somerford Youth and Community Centre





Marieke from the Netherlands

Since completing her quarantine, Marieke has jumped straight in with supporting activities at Faithworks Wessex. Already a valued asset, Marieke has been kept busy across different projects, including regularly helping at the Half Time shop next to Delta House.

“Marieke has settled well into the BCARS team (support to ex rough sleepers) and is involved with helping those living in temporary and emergency accommodation. She’s been a great asset to our team.”

Quote from Claire Stonier, Faithworks



Mhairi from the UK

A familiar face to many, Mhairi has recently taken on a role supporting our YMCA Children’s Services, assisting in their offices. Mhairi is excited to be involved and believes this experience will help her to move forward with her life and achieve her goal of one day working professionally in the field.

“Mhairi has settled into the team well.

She shows enthusiasm and commitment. Families are benefiting from her contribution.”

Quote from Jackie Huggett, Head of Family and Relationship Services



Jana from Austria

Another recent quarantine champion, Jana is one of 3 ESC volunteers based at the Somerford Youth and Community Centre. Jana brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role and is so far enjoying getting to know the team and young people there. She often helps out with the food bank too.

“Jana is a really pleasant volunteer and great working as part of a team. She is very actively involved in our work.”

Quote from Jae Harris, Somerford Youth and Community Centre.



Sara from Italy

The latest in a long line of Chatterbox volunteers, Sara is spending her time with the wonderful youth project members across BCP and Dorset. The Chatterbox Project supports and empowers young people with disabilities

“Sara has been supporting Chatterbox members in sessions, both online and face to face. She has been supporting online events and campaigns and is doing a great job developing our links with schools and external organisations.”

Quote from Laura Busby, Chatterbox Project Worker





Juan from Spain

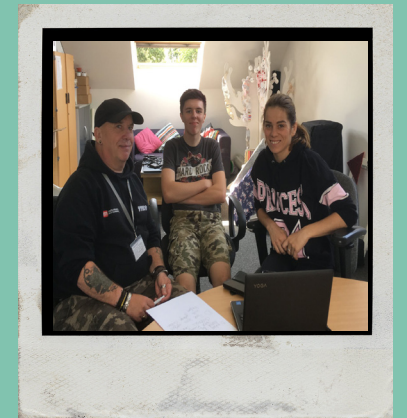
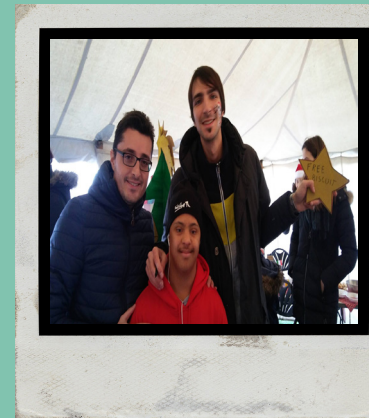


Juan completed his quarantine at Sandyholme before joining the other Somerford volunteers. The oldest of all our volunteers, Juan brings his experiences to share with Jae and the rest of the Somerford team. He frequently helps with the food bank which is based in the centre and is a lifeline to many this year.

“Juan brings a really great sense of humour and is always very keen to help out with all of our Centre activities.”
Quote from Jae, Manager of Somerford Youth and Community Centre

More details about the European Solidarity Corps within YMCA Bournemouth

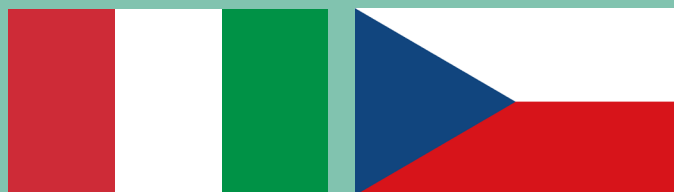
The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is a European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.



Projects can last from as little as **two months** but are generally for **12 months**. Volunteers are provided with support, subsistence levels of funding and basic training.

You can register for the ESC when you are 17 years old, but you cannot start a project until you are **over 18**. European Solidarity Corps projects are available to people **up to the age of 30 years old**.

After completing the simple registration process you should look out for advertisements for YMCA Bournemouth voluntary positions on the ESC website.



Lucie from the Czech Republic and Alessandra from Italy

Arriving just for the Summer, Lucie joined Ale who was winding down from her year at the Junction Leisure Centre. Both girls volunteered at Somerford Youth and Community Centre, helping with the children's holiday programme and the food bank.



European Solidarity Corps



: www.ymcabournemouth.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/



: esc@ymcabournemouth.org.uk



: [@BYMCAyouthprojects](https://www.facebook.com/BYMCAyouthprojects)

