



growing points

November 2018

Dear Supporter

This is my last newsletter as Director of Growing Points. This is a cause very dear to my heart so I shall remain a Trustee and I shall be developing the Growing Points community in Brighton and West Sussex as I live locally. I know that there are plenty of people who might benefit from our services. I would welcome any contact from local organisations who want to refer customers to Growing Points and we are always looking for Guardians. More information on the latter is on our website:

<https://growingpoints.co.uk/volunteering-as-a-guardian/>

I am very pleased to announce that **Tesfalem Yemane** is taking over as **Operations Director** in mid November. Tesfalem lives in Leeds and is a refugee. He is a great supporter of Growing Points as he has been working with Retas who refer a significant number of customers to us. He is currently studying for a PhD in Migration Studies at the University of Leeds. His areas of interest are on the politics of migration, international-migration relations, refugeesim, migrants' integration, international relations and peace studies.



Hidden Talents

This programme goes from strength to strength and we are in the middle of Cohort 5. Not only are Leeds Hospitals now offering apprenticeships at a living wage for Clinical Support Workers but they are also offering apprenticeships for people who want a career in Business Administration and our first candidates look fantastic!

Last year this scheme was shortlisted for an award in the Workforce category and this year we were shortlisted by the Nursing Times in the Equality and Diversity category. We did not win in either event but it demonstrates how well this scheme is regarded.



From left to right:

Gill Chapman our wonderful lead Nurse at Leeds Hospitals, Aster our first ever graduate on the Hidden Talents Scheme; Michelle Stanley Matron in the Emergency Department; Chrissy who is an apprentice clinical support worker and Jane Rennie (me!) Growing Points Director.

Guardians wanted – particularly in Leeds!

Leeds is a fantastic place in terms of support for refugees and we are lucky that the Hospital values the contribution refugees have to play in looking



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after their patients. And we have great working relationships with our referral agencies. We are, however, rather victims of our own success in that we have significant numbers of refugees wanting our support. We REALLY need more volunteers so if you have a few hours to spare each week – it is very flexible – we would love to hear from you.

The work is very rewarding and varied see a recent video – the customers are inspiring...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5bFDfXATO8>

Funding

In the summer we bid from the EU (before we leave!!!) for funding to upscale our operations – but we were unsuccessful. However I am very pleased to say that we recently received £5000 from the Royal London Foundation for our work in Leeds.

Funding for sustainability remains a challenge and we are still looking for a Development Director to help us source additional income. This is a part time role, working very flexibly from home with a generous honorarium of £10k per annum. If you are interested contact dick@growingpoints.co.uk For more details see the advert and role description at <https://growingpoints.co.uk/1492-2/>



Flourishing Families

Dick Stockford has been working with low income families in Leeds to support their ambitions to lift themselves out of poverty. Eight families have come

up with interesting ideas for small businesses and we are hoping that a partner organisation called Restart Refugee Support will be able to lend them funding at a low rate of interest to get them started.

Support us!

Finally, Christmas is coming and if you are shopping online and want to support a good cause why not sign up here.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/WG71F8/B63TP1/>

This will take you to the EasyFundraising website where you can search for Growing Points. They donate money to us if you purchase through their site. I use it (particularly for John Lewis) and it works!



If you require information on anything in the newsletter, please contact the Director: jane@growingpoints.co.uk

Don't forget!

We are on **Facebook**:

<https://www.facebook.com/ambitionandaction/>

And **Twitter**: @growingpointsuk