

A Hand Up Not A Handout September 27 - October 3 2010 No.917 KL70

# THE BIG ISSUE

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Coming up from the streets

**PLUS**  
Patrick the optimist  
Felix Dennis  
Bobcat Goldthwait

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GEORGE**

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the years





## Routine Charity

True Volunteer Foundation gets smart with people's time

**H**ave you ever wanted to volunteer but couldn't find the time between juggling work, friends, the broken toaster and the gym? Well, join the rest of us. Just 26 per cent of people volunteer, compared to 74 per cent who give money to charity – there's evidently a will, but not the way.

Fast-growing charity, True Volunteer Foundation (TVF), is hoping to change that. They provide volunteering opportunities that make use of smartphones, WiFi and Skype to enable even the busiest of people to give something back.

"Our ultimate goal is to reduce the gap between the haves and the have-nots in both the UK and the developing world," said Michael Padmanathan, founder of TVF. "With this new wave of technologies, it's possible for people to volunteer on their own terms, when driving, commuting to work or watching TV."

Already working in 28 countries around the world, TVF partner small charities that work for children, the environment, the rurally isolated, senior citizens, and animals. Their core principle is that every single penny of the money they raise goes directly to their projects – none is siphoned off for administration costs.

Volunteers sign up to have a 'social career' alongside their day jobs, and are given a specific role – whether that's head of their Madagascar project, bringing nearly 500 computers to one of the poorest countries in the world, or the head of finance at TVF itself – and a contract to work for a minimum of five hours a week. TVF has 108 volunteers to date, many of whom are students or those out of work hoping to learn new skills and add to their CVs.

Forty-eight-year-old Scott Blatchley, a marketing consultant who uses his expertise in volunteering for TVF, decided to get involved when he was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. "What really attracted me to TVF is that the people benefitting from the work we do learn how to be little micro-centres of TVF in their own countries, running their own education or water programmes, for example," he said. "It's that old saying, 'Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day, teach him to fish and he'll eat forever'. TVF is really achieving that."

For more information, go to [www.truevolunteer.org](http://www.truevolunteer.org)



## True Volunteer Foundation

# Are you a True Volunteer?

True Volunteer Foundation is a unique international NGO.  
We helped **75,000** people in **28** countries last year

**NO ONE** gets paid

**NO ONE** get's personal expenses reimbursed  
The charity has a **near zero cost base**

You can volunteer from **home or at offices**  
Volunteer during your spare time

We have **108** True Volunteers from around the globe

**Numerous opportunities exist...**

Volunteering Programmes exist in Sri-Lanka and Madagascar

*Join a young, dynamic, revolutionary charity!*

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