

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING CASE STUDY

Driven To Make a Difference – How Nissan's workforce helped to address inequalities for families.



Space4 project is the community project established by St Michael and All Angel's church based in Houghton-le-Spring. The project works with people from all backgrounds, seeking to be a 'a space for community to flourish'. The project provides a drop-in on the high street running group sessions, a community foodbank and clothes bank, and signposting to other local service providers to ensure that vulnerable people can access necessary services.



One of their priorities is working with their community to respond to inequalities particularly those affecting children and young people. This includes providing a clothes bank of pre-loved school uniforms. Nissan offered support as they were looking for a way for their undergraduate placement students to use their Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) time in order to help a local community.



"We currently do not have enough capacity within our team of staff and volunteers to look after the pre-loved uniform – stock had piled up without being sorted and we had no idea of what we did/did not have. Thanks to their help, the uniform is now all sorted and we have a much better idea of what we have in stock. Not only did their help mean we could run the event but also means we can now respond to individual requests for uniform

as and when they come in." Justine Merton-Scott, Manager, Space4 (pictured left).



Nissan volunteers helped to check, sort and fold a large volume of uniform donations and carried out a full inventory of stock. They set up the hall, manned tables during the

event to assist families in finding suitable items, provided an art and craft table for children to create a friendly and welcoming space and cleared up at the end. Some of the volunteers even went the extra mile to assist another organisation who happened to be moving in on the day – carrying boxes upstairs to their new offices!



The Church Urban Fund states that Houghton-le-Spring parish ranks 1,446 out of 12,239, (where 1 is the most deprived), making it among the most deprived in the country with an



estimated 23% in child poverty (Source: <https://cuf.org.uk/parish/130099>). Severe deprivation includes: high unemployment and numbers of households in and out of work reliant on benefits and foodbanks; high numbers of children entitled to free school meals; high levels of one parent families and families involved with social services including issues relating to domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental health and learning disabilities. The pre-loved uniform bank is just one way that Space4 attempt to address inequalities and restore dignity to families, easing financial pressures, peer pressures and aiding school attendance.

“We all had a very enjoyable day, and it was great to be able to contribute to such an amazing cause.” Hannah Reekie, Indirect Recruitment & Talent Placement Student, HR, Nissan

SVSA can help broker effective and efficient connections between companies and the community sector, ensuring maximum social impact. Justine continues by saying: “This was our first experience of using corporate volunteers. Marie guided us through the whole process from start to finish which was extremely helpful. The support and guidance has been great. The students from Nissan who came along were absolutely lovely and willing to get stuck in and do whatever needed doing. We will definitely look to have more corporate volunteers in future.”



NO OF CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS	TOTAL NO OF HRS	SOCIAL VALUE (VOLUNTEERING) £	SOCIAL VALUE (MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT) £	TOTAL VALUE £
10	50	846.50	20.00	866.50

For enquiries regarding corporate volunteering email volunteer@sunderlandvsa.co.uk.
 Space4 welcome new volunteers. For more information email space4.mngr@gmail.com.
 Nissan Manufacturing UK is a major car manufacturer based in Sunderland: <https://www.nissan.co.uk/>.