

PRESS RELEASE

POPS CELEBRATE VOLUNTEER WEEK 2009

Prison Governors, Court Senior Probation Officers, Students and offenders families all work together in National Volunteer Week 2009 to enhance services, raise awareness and gain new experiences by volunteering.

POPS utilize volunteers in all aspects of our services and the management of our organisation. From offenders' family members on our Board of Trustees, law students in our legal advice surgeries, ex-offenders on our telephone helpline to retired probation officers in our Visitor Centres. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and for a variety of reasons. In June 2009 POPS celebrated National Volunteer Week by encouraging Criminal Justice Staff to step into the shoes of our volunteers for a day.



Terry Williams, HMP Wymott Governor), Steve Sanderson (HMP Wymott Residential Governor, Prison Officer and Denise Whittan (POPS Volunteer)

We felt that, in light of a recent review, conducted by [Baroness Neuberger](#) on maximizing the potential of volunteering in prisons, encouraging Criminal Justice Staff would be extremely pertinent and reinforce the message.

In National Volunteer Week (1st – 7th June 2009) we had 20 new volunteers, who normally work for HMP Wymott, HMP Garth, HMP Buckley Hall, Greater

Manchester Probation Service and Magistrates Court, come to POPS to give up their time to support the cause.

In our Visitor Centres attached to Prisons we had Governors serving refreshments at the Tea Bars, Prison Officers giving families advice about the Prison and other personnel entertaining the children visitors in our Play Areas.

'This opportunity has really opened up my eyes to the impact imprisonment has on the children and families of offenders... I never realised how tough it was on them.'

Volunteer



Steve Sanderson (HMP Wymott Residential Governor, Marie Speakman (POPS Visitor Centre Coordinator) and Imraan Hussain (SOVA Advice Worker)

In our National Offender Management Service pilot project for Community Family Support attached to Manchester Magistrates Court we had Senior Probation Officers and University Students working along side our staff to provide families, of those being sentenced, practical and emotional advice.

If you are interested in finding out more about POPS or want to volunteer please our website on www.partnersofprisoners.org.uk or call our Head Office on 0161 702 1000

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