

Volunteers nominated for annual awards

Last month we nominated some of our brilliant volunteers for outstanding achievement awards.

Three of our University College London volunteers were put forward for the **UCL Community Contribution Award** and the **Team London Awards**.

Nicoletta Yerasimou is a trained swimmer and has helped with our weekly swimming project since October 2014, giving lessons and organising water sport activities for children aged 8 to 16 years.

The parents have commented: **"She never lets us down. We love her and respect her."**

Sabrina Vashisht has been providing emotional and practical support to a single mother and her 8 year old daughter since November 2013.

They said: **"Sabrina is always positive and puts a smile on our faces, regardless of our challenging lives."**

Ye Huan Khor has been supporting a single mother and her 11 year old daughter

since November 2013. The trained pianist also teaches the child piano.

Three volunteers were nominees for the annual **Volunteer of the Year Award** by the London School of Economics Careers' Volunteer Centre.

Morgan Burley has been providing support to a young boy, now aged 14, since July 2014.

Sabrina Rebrab has supported a bereaved six year old girl with epilepsy since February 2014.

Alexander Todd has been supporting a refugee single mother and her two sons, aged 16 and 12 years, for the past nine months.

Volunteers put forward for the **Team London Volunteering Award** are **Melanie D'Ursel** and **Suzia Bolman**.

These Awards will be presented by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, at City Hall on Monday 14 September, 5.30 – 7pm. He will be joined by celebrity Team London ambassadors and business and charity leaders.

Maths exam success

Daria aged 14 was struggling with maths at school when WBAF volunteer, Di Luo, 26, came to the rescue.

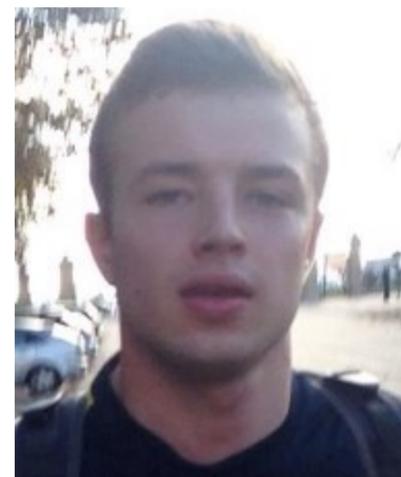
She helped Daria to concentrate on the areas she didn't understand.

Now Daria is thrilled to have passed a school exam in the subject for the first time.

Di is from Canada and works in an art gallery.

She helps WBAF with family support

Well done Jack



Jack Scrimshaw: great performance

Our runner Jack Scrimshaw from Sir Robert McAlpine managed to complete April's London Marathon - his first - in only 3hrs and 22 mins, raising an amazing £2,689.20 for WBAF.

He said: "It was tough but all my training paid off and I felt quite good on the day. There wasn't really a low point'.

'The crowd and all the entertainment along the way made it a really great experience'.

The Italian connection: meet our social researchers



Alessandro di Antonio is from Rapallo in Italy.



Chiara Manzoni is from Lecco, a city on Lake Como in northern Italy

Former WBAF social research interns from Italy have been working as research consultants on a revaluation project for WBAF.

Alessandro di Antonio moved to London in 2013 and joined WBAF as a volunteer at the end of 2014.

He has a degree in Psychology and an MSc in Crime Science from University College London.

Chiara Manzoni studied sociology in Milan, Rome, Granada and St Andrews. She completed a PhD working with migrant families.

A year ago she decided to move to London and started volunteering for WBAF.

We're M&S local charity of the year



Our local Marks and Spencer at Cardinal Place in Victoria

WBAF is thrilled to have been chosen as Local Charity of the Year by our local Marks and Spencer in Victoria.

The Cardinal Place store at 10, Victoria Street has announced it will be fundraising for the charity in the shop, and possibly 'backstage' in staff areas. The money raised will be vital in helping our work with local families.

Our special thanks to Aaron Vella at the store for choosing us.

The company's local charity fundraising programme is part of Marks and Spencer's wider commitment to supporting local communities.

Marks and Spencer, Cardinal Place Shopping Centre,, Westminster, SW1E 5JE.

Loss of council grant

As a charity, WBAF is working hard to raise funds to keep our services going. This has become harder as this is the first year that Westminster City Council has not contributed to our funding.

The loss of the £40,000 grant we normally receive from the council has made us more reliant than ever on donations, sponsorship, events and help from local businesses.

Thursday coffee mornings have stopped for Ramadan but will start again after it ends on July 17. **Monday coffee mornings** are continuing at the Cardinal Hume Centre, 3-7 Arneway Street, Horseferry Road, SW1P 2BG from 10am.

Volunteers reward scheme

We're delighted to have joined forces with Westminster Time Credits, supported by the Spice organisation, to offer rewards to our volunteers.

Now, if they give an hour of time to WBAF they get an hour's credit back as a voucher to spend on a host of activities across the capital and the rest of the UK.

They include culture and history, exhibitions; UK family days out; room hire; classes; sport, including sailing, climbing and wrestling; trips and events; health and well being; beauty and much more.



Time Credit vouchers: volunteers can spend them on activities across the UK

Time Credits never expire and there are lots of ways to earn them. They can even be given away to someone else. The scheme is new to Westminster although it has been operating in other parts of London and the UK for some time.

For details see www.justaddspice.org and [youtube.com/user/spicetimecredits](https://www.youtube.com/user/spicetimecredits)

Supporters in race to bring back our seaside trip

Family support volunteers, Sayed Ahmad and his colleague Sabrina, are to take part in a 10k race in a bid to revive our hugely popular annual day trip to Brighton.

The two are running for WBAF in the demanding Regent's Park Summer 2015 10K Race Grand Prix Series on August 2.

They hope to raise £4,000 to pay for the seaside trip this year. The last one took place four years ago, in 2011, before it had to be shelved thanks to cuts. It was the only holiday of the year for some families.

Sayed said: "This challenge is definitely worth the hundreds of smiles we could bring about!"

See Ahmed's donation page at <https://www.justgiving.com/Syed-AHMAD/>