

Using voluntary work to get ahead in the job market



The Open
University

Worksheet 4

Case study

Jack had been working for a charity that raised funds for the local hospice. He enjoyed the work, had made many new friends and did not want to leave the organisation.

He felt though that his time in the charity shop was not enough to develop all the skills he needed to make a career move. He also thought he could do a lot more and would enjoy the challenge of pushing himself to try out new (and slightly scary) experiences.

He asked for suggestions from his fellow volunteers and the regional coordinator. He also visited the hospice and talked to staff and patients to check first hand what improvements they would like and how they would want to raise their profile. Finally, he researched on the web to see what volunteers were doing with larger charities.

He recorded all this, and what he actually achieved, on a STARE grid, using the 'action words' from Worksheet 6 in Section 6 of this unit.

Situation	Working in a hospice charity shop, but I felt I was underused and more could be done to <i>develop</i> my skills and experience.
Task	To raise the profile of the hospice in the local community, <i>plan</i> a strategy of <i>initiating</i> new activities to stretch and challenge me, and <i>involve</i> as many local people as possible.
Action	I <i>consulted</i> fellow volunteers, hospice staff and patients to <i>analyse</i> what they wanted. I <i>researched</i> activities of volunteers working for other charities, <i>recorded</i> some patients telling their own stories about what the hospice meant to them, <i>persuaded</i> local newspapers to run an article and <i>negotiated</i> a slot on local radio for these stories to be read out. I also <i>redesigned</i> the website and <i>contacted</i> local organisations such as the Rotary Club, the two secondary schools and the WI to give <i>presentations</i> .
Result	Funds <i>raised</i> increased by 40%. The matron of the hospice reported improved facilities and there was an increase in the number of volunteers for the shop and door-to door collections.
Evaluation	Writing articles for the press, doing a radio broadcast and giving presentations to local organisations improved my confidence and communication skills, and demonstrated my initiative and planning.

Go to the next page for a blank copy of this STARE grid for you to complete.

Situation	
Task	
Action	
Result	
Evaluation	