

Volunteers making a difference

VOLUNTEERING

By Cassie Irving

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PEOPLE IN need in Leeds are being given a helping hand by volunteers working with the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) charity.

Volunteers in community support projects such as the St Vincent's Advice and Support centre, St Jude's furniture store, and community shops around the city make a real difference to the lives of families, refugees, unemployed and people living in poverty through the range of services they provide.

There are also 600 volunteer members of the SVP in and around Leeds, who belong to parish groups known as conferences attached to churches around the city.

Volunteer members visit and befriend people in need in their own homes, offering them a listening ear, and providing practical assistance like food parcels, furniture, help with paying essential bills, clothing, and giving them support.

Andrew Winfield has been a member of the SVP for 30 years, and belongs to the SVP group at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Moortown.

He said: "We have helped families by providing carpets,



VOLUNTEERS: Help feed families in need.

white goods, furniture, food, and helping with bills. We also refer people to the St Vincent's Support centre where they have counselling and benefits advice.

"We recently helped a single parent family who were asylum seekers fleeing persecution in their home country, and who

had come to England with nothing. We helped them get specialist immigration advice, and talk to the local council about their housing needs."

"I am engaging with people who are less fortunate than me and trying to improve their lives. I also enjoy the compan-

ionship and support within the group, and thirdly the individual spiritual uplifting you get which is part of being a member. It's very wide and all encompassing."

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EDUCATION

Creating your future

LEEDS CITY College will host a Leeds Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) event that aims to encourage young women to think about a career in the IT and digital media sector.

The WISE 'Create Your Future' event will be held at the College's Printworks Campus on Tuesday, June 28 from 1pm to 4.30pm.

It will give people aged from 14 to 19 the opportunity to learn first-hand about careers, listen to a range of role models including young women who are currently working within the IT and digital sector and find out more about the full-time courses, apprenticeships and graduate programmes available at the college.

The event aims to increase the diversity of young people with a particular emphasis on young females undertaking employment within the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sector.

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