

Community service that saves lives

VOLUNTEERING

By Cassie Irving

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LEEDS WOMAN Geraldine Mee – a volunteer member of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) St Nicholas Parish, South East Leeds – has highlighted the importance of volunteers in the community.

Geraldine, who joined the SVP more than 20 years ago, first came into contact with the charity as a child after her father died leaving her mother with 14 children to look after. The SVP stepped in to help her mother and gave the family sup-

port. Geraldine said: "I am from a very large family so I am used to giving and have always felt generosity of spirit."

"As an adult, joining the SVP has given me another opportunity to share with others which I very much enjoy."

As a member of the SVP, Geraldine has helped many people. One person she remembers particularly well is a man called Derek (not his real name) who was in his early 30s and had cerebral palsy.

Geraldine recounts that when Derek moved into a flat in her parish, her SVP group discovered he needed help. She said: "Initially it was help with food, money for phone calls, and



VOLUNTEER: Geraldine Mee out visiting.

clothing as his benefits had been delayed."

Geraldine visited him at his flat every two weeks to check on him but before long he had become very unwell with deep-vein thrombosis and had to be hospitalised. After Derek was discharged Geraldine went to

visit him, but to her shock she found Derek collapsed on the floor in his flat unable to move. He had fallen on his way to the bathroom. Geraldine had him taken back to the hospital where he had surgery that night to save him. Geraldine added: "If the SVP hadn't been there to visit

Derek, who knows what the outcome would have been." After the operation, Geraldine and her group continued to visit Derek and take him hot meals.

He is now doing much better.

ONLINE: For breaking news, visit www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk

IN BRIEF

GRANTS FOR ANIMAL CENTRES

FUNDING: Animal re-homing organisations in the city can now apply for financial support from animal charity, Support Adoption For Pets, under its new grant 2016 scheme.

Do you know a local centre that could use this funding? Visit www.supportadoptionforpets.co.uk the closing date is August 10.

CURLING FOR HORSFORTH WI

EVENT: The sport of curling is on the agenda on Monday, June 20 when members of Horsforth Women's Institute meet at St James' Parish Centre. Two days later 40 members will be setting off on their annual day trip to Sledmere House in East Yorkshire. For details call Pat on 0113 2587062.

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