

TV stars

POTENTIAL television stars are needed to take part in advertisements about volunteering.

The Media Trust is looking for people who are currently volunteering to take part in a series of short adverts to be filmed on January 8.

In particular volunteers are needed who are over 25, from black and ethnic minority communities, in particular those from Chinese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds.

People with disabilities or limiting long-term illnesses are also needed. They are also interested to hear from people in receipt of benefits or who were receiving benefits when they first started volunteering.

Anyone who is interested should contact Maddie Kitchen at the Media Trust on 020 7874 7616 or email maddiek@mediatrust.org

Xmas aid

WOULD you like to volunteer over this Christmas period?

Calderdale Users' Forum is offering a 24-hour drop-in on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

It will offer the homeless and socially isolated people the opportunity to go somewhere warm and safe and get some hot food.

Anyone who can spare a few hours should contact Steve on 01422 348777.

Help needed

VOLUNTEERS are needed for two events running in Halifax in the New Year.

The launch event for Voluntary Action Calderdale's Resource Centre and the Funding Fair at Elim Pentecostal Church, will be on January 25, from 10am to 3pm.

If you are interested in helping out on the day or would like to attend please contact Steve on 01422 348777 or email vdm@cvac.org.uk

HALIFAX'S OWN GUARDIAN ANGEL

CUTTING crime, saving lives and helping the vulnerable are all part of a nights work for Street Angels

volunteer Paul Blakey.

Paul, a 32-year-old administration assistant from Halifax, has been with the organisation since it began over a year ago.

He said: "I do it because I find it so rewarding, I think it is the fact that we have helped over 1,000 people.

"Along with St John Ambulance we have also helped to save two lives and helped to cut crime.

"We deal with everything from people just wanting directions to those who have been left vulnerable."

Paul is one of more than 60 Street Angels co-ordinators who help those people that find themselves vulnerable in the town centre.

Street Angels was launched in November 2005 and is a partnership between Halifax Town Centre Police, Churches Together in Halifax and Halifax YMCA.

It involves volunteers going onto the streets on Friday and Saturday nights from 9pm to 3am.

The project uses the Fairtrade Café, which is part of the YMCA building on Crossley Street, as a safe place and headquarters for the Street Angels, who patrol the town centre.

Crime has consistently fallen by around 40% in the town centre making Halifax a place which is bucking regional trends.

Paul gives about 14 hours a week to the project which he fits around his full-time job.

The project has been so successful that several other towns have visited

Street Angels and similar projects are operating, or in the planning stages, in Grimsby, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Huddersfield, Leicester, Manchester, Newbury, Nottingham, Rochdale, Todmorden, Wakefield and Worthing.

If you would like to volunteer for Street Angels or find out more information visit the website at www.streetangels.org.uk or phone 01422 321028.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



OFFERING SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help struggling families with young children across Calderdale.

Homestart Calderdale was set up in 1999 and is part of a nationwide charity which runs 350 schemes.

Volunteers take part in a 10-week training programme before being matched with a family in need of help.

This could be anything from a mother who is isolated having just moved to the area, or a family facing domestic violence.

Senior co-ordinator, Linda Crowther, said: "The aim of the support is improving the life of the child and to do this we target the parents."

Linda believes the charity has been so

successful because it is parents who come to the charity and ask for support, so nothing is forced upon them.

The Home Visiting Volunteers are required to give two hours a week of contact with the families they are matched with. Volunteers are required to be parents or to have experience of children under five.

Linda added: "The families that we support are diverse so the volunteers also need to be diverse. They need to have good communication skills and the ability to listen and also to be flexible."

The charity is also in need of trustees.

Anyone who would like to help is asked to contact Linda on 01422 340819

OPPORTUNITY OF THE MONTH