

## **International Student Volunteer – Case Study**

In 2008-09, Horizon Volunteer, Oyinlola Akinde was awarded a Volunteering England Gold Award, which is a national prestigious mark of excellence that recognises Achievement, Dedication and Leadership.

In 2008, Oyinlola was elected as a representative for Volunteering on Union Council at Coventry University Students' Union and throughout the course of the year she became a fantastic ambassador for the volunteering department, persuading many students to undertake volunteering activities and contributing her time and skills in a number of roles.

One of Oyinlola's main voluntary placements was at the Coventry Refugee Centre where she has helped to support asylum seekers and refugees, ensuring that they gain the support and benefits which they are entitled to. Oyinlola also volunteered on various one-off opportunities too, including; Student Volunteering Week, the Big Challenge, the Big Sports Challenge, BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteering) and more. All of the roles which Oyinlola has undertaken proved her dedication to volunteering and the leadership she showed throughout her volunteering made her a very deserving Gold Award winner!

When asked why others should volunteer Oyinlola commented that, *“As an International Student I have realised that there is no barrier, nothing stopping you, bringing your best (talent or ability) out. Every International student must make sure that their prospective University has a Volunteering organisation (Like Horizon Volunteering) because volunteering brings the best out of you.”*

If you are new to Coventry University or an existing student and want to improve your skills and CV and have the chance to interact with the local community, contact Horizon Volunteering and we will offer you dedicated advice, training and support for your volunteering placement.