



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE

8th May 2013

VOLUNTEER MENTORS VOLUNTEER

Volunteers throughout Australia will be given the recognition and thanks they deserve during National Volunteer Week, Monday 13th – Sunday 19th May.

Volunteers are an important part of disability support service, Interchange Outer East.

Recreation volunteer, Chiara Munzel, has been an enthusiastic and consistent volunteer with Interchange Outer East for a number of years now. Recently Chiara has taken on a volunteering role with a difference – as a mentor for Thu Hoang, as Thu learns ‘the volunteering ropes’ on recreation activity programs.

Thu started volunteering with Interchange following her involvement in a project run by the local Migrant Information Centre. The project aimed to encourage participation in the community by introducing people of diverse cultural backgrounds to volunteering opportunities, teaching them the skills required to volunteer and hopefully, as a result of their experience, to find employment.

As Thu required a mentor, Interchange volunteer coordinators, Jess and Marcelo, saw the perfect opportunity for extending Chiara’s experiences by giving her the job of mentoring a new volunteer. Chiara is a seasoned volunteer of a number of years and too many activities and camps to count! As she is very outgoing and popular with the other volunteers, staff and the children and young people she supports on activities, she was the perfect choice to introduce Thu to the Interchange volunteer team and to support her as she developed her own volunteering skills.

The mentoring arrangement is working well. Thu has now volunteered on a number of activities and feels very much part of the Interchange family and Chiara ... well Chiara says “Mentoring Thu has given me so many new experiences and opened up lots of doors for me. Its given me lots more confidence in myself, really extended me and taught me about patience! I might be mentoring Thu in volunteering but she is teaching me so much more.”

To find out more about volunteering opportunities with Interchange Outer East, please contact 9758 5522 or email volunteers@ioe.org.au or visit www.ioe.org.au

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For more information about this release or to organise interviews and photo shoots with Chiara and Thu, please contact

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