



PATRICIA AND PABLO

The power of volunteering and how it connects to so many different things in so many different ways.

Case Study



IN THEIR WORDS...

Patricia and Pablo are Quintain Living Residents and here is their story.

Patricia writes - 'I had already seen the Daniel's Den website in Quintain App and volunteering opportunities, but until then I had other commitments and I put it aside. And that's when a friend (who volunteered at Daniel's Den) invited me to meet her on a Friday. And I automatically started to go every Friday, then some Wednesday and Saturday events.'

Having a place to invite people to come along and join in whether as a parent or child or as a volunteer is such a central feature of what we do.

'In each participation I feel that I am filled with energy, even on the bad days, seeing those children happy and playing makes the outside world stop'.

Building community is so important and 'knowing and being known' is one of our vision statements.

'I see that many mothers participate more than once a week, so it means that we are doing "a good job". The cool thing about "Yellow" is that many parents live in the area, and I end up meeting them on the street on any given day, in the supermarket, in the condominium, in the park, and they recognise and start to talk.

Daniel's Den also helped me to have some kids to look after part time – and these even live in the same block as me'.

Background

Quintain is a British-based property investment and development business, which operates through Urban Regeneration, focussed on schemes in Wembley Park. Daniel's Den has had a relationship with them since they first started working in Wembley Park in mid-2000's when one of their executives donated second-hand baby equipment for one of our families. The relationship has grown in several ways and when Quintain Living opened its doors, we were asked to suggest ways in which new residents could be involved in volunteering opportunities. This so connected with our quote 'you can build flats and houses, but this doesn't necessarily build community' and we were delighted to supply the details.

Quintain are great company to work with as they see the value in working in partnership with grassroots organisations to bring about community regeneration. Through connections via their staff attending sessions as both parents and also volunteers, they have experienced first-hand the benefits and they have taken this back to the board room. We are able to share our plans for the future and the need for investment in both monetary and also other ways. We really value this two-way relationship and feel it is a great example of TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More.



IN THEIR WORDS...

Developing relationships is key to building community and sometimes language can be a barrier. Patricia speaks both Portuguese and Spanish and once she heard about our project called The Net, a monthly 'Pop Up' session for asylum seekers in a local hotel, she willingly volunteered.

'I really like participating in the day that we are going to "play" with the refugee's kids, this is the day that I feel that I help the most (inside of me), because they don't have many options for their status in the country, and I am very happy to be able to participate in this project and bring some joy to those mothers and children.'

People volunteer for all sorts of reasons – to develop confidence, learn new skills, be part of a team, give something back into society. Patricia and Pablo share quite openly about one of the main reasons they are volunteering -

'I realised that participating in the DD would help me in the process of adopting a child, because experience with children is one of the mandatory points. After a few months participating, I managed to take my husband to participate in Father's Day, it's only once a month, and I see that he returns home happy.'

And here is what Pablo had to say ...

"My wife was already a volunteer in DD, and one day she mentioned that there was a 'Dads only' activity and they were looking for volunteers. Since I was also looking to have some more experience with kids, this felt like tailored opportunity for me. I've been going for a couple months now and it is truly a rewarding experience. The little ones are not as scary as I originally thought, and they seem to have a good time playing and singing along. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

Patricia and Pablo are part of our volunteer team and it is a joy to hear about their journey. Daniel's Den is so much more than a toddler group and is such an effective way of genuinely building a sense of community. It reduces isolation and enables people of all ages to build relationships that matter within and beyond their cultural and ethnic group.

