



Benefits of Skills-based Volunteering

For the organisation:

- ✓ Increased capacity and capability
- ✓ Access to skills not already available
- ✓ Ability to build the capacity of those engaged in the program

For the volunteer:

Volunteering has improved my...

- ✓ Influencing/ negotiation skills
- ✓ Ability to maximise the performance of others
- ✓ Sense of well-being and happiness

MARVELOUS MENTOR

United Way WA's (UWWA) Right to Work Program focuses on supporting women who have experienced family and domestic violence to build their capability, confidence and capacity to enter or re-enter employment as part of their journey towards independence. It is a program tailored to individual needs and includes both group sessions and individual mentoring.

UWWA reached out to Volunteering WA for assistance in finding skilled volunteers who were interested in mentoring participants through the Right to Work program.

A Mechanical Engineer with a keen interest in giving back to the community, and previous personal experience in supporting individuals who had experienced family and domestic violence, was quick to put her hand up to be involved in the project.

After the initial screening and orientation process, the volunteer was successfully matched to a mentee, and the mentoring process began. Though still early in the match, UWWA's Corporate Partner Manager, Tim Allan remarked on the professionalism and compassion of the volunteer.

"[The BHP volunteer] has been fabulous; she is very organised, creative and a good mix of patient and motivating. [She] has managed the significant cultural differences and language challenges with respect and integrity."

– Tim Allan, United Way WA

Likewise, the volunteer reported some early positive outcomes from her involvement in the program, as well as her intention to undertake more volunteering in the future. She added how the volunteering experience had improved her influencing and negotiation skills, her ability to maximise the performance of others, and her understanding and empathy towards other people. When asked what she enjoyed most about being involved in the program, the volunteer replied, "[m]eeting someone from another walk of life".

While more time is needed to determine the full outcome of the mentorship, the volunteer's enthusiasm and commitment to the role is to be commended.

Well done on your volunteer contribution!