



Winant and Clayton Volunteers 2009

From the UK and US Chairs

Winant and Clayton is celebrating another successful year of volunteers that have made a difference to the lives of others.

The Claytons are celebrating their 50th this year and we are very much looking forward to the event being held in London in November. The anniversary is a perfect opportunity for members of WCV from both sides of the Atlantic to come together, celebrate our rich history and look towards the future.

In order to continue our success we need the assistance and time of our former volunteers. There are many ways in which you can help us:

- Recruit others to become Winant and Clayton volunteers
- Become an interviewer for new applicants
- Help with volunteer training, supervision sessions and social occasions during the summer program.
- Assist in the NY or London offices with admin work and mailings
- Assist in writing grants and finding funds
- Join our summer hospitality lists to accommodate volunteers during travel time

It is that time of year again where applications will shortly open for our next volunteer exchange program. Winant Clayton Volunteers welcomes applications and support from all individuals. Our volunteering opportunities are open to people of all ethnicities, religions, ages and backgrounds. We actively encourage equal opportunities and diversity in our Winant and Clayton volunteers. Thank you for all your continued support. Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year to all!

Margie Staker, US Chairman
Anna Henry and Peter Richards, UK Co Chairs

From the UK and US Coordinators

Each year we continue to see the profound effects Winant and Clayton makes on the lives of the volunteers who apply and on the organizations that enjoy their assistance. Time and time again we see the need to simply "lend a hand" in order to better our world.

As relatively new Coordinators, we are looking forward to working more closely together over the coming months to strengthen and unify the work of Winant Clayton on both sides of the Atlantic. We are both excited about another summer of assisting and supporting the new incoming volunteers and will make every effort towards making this next year one of the best yet.

In continuing the tradition of "lending a hand," we always hope to hear from our alums about ways in which they would like to stay involved with our continuing work. If you are a past volunteer who would like to help out, there are so many things you can do regardless of where you live and how much time you have, so please get in touch!

In the words of a trusted friend and Board member, "Strong countries/organisations, cannot expect to just keep going strong - they have to keep renewing themselves".

So as we continue to work towards a healthy, sustainable and bright future for Winant Clayton Volunteers, we hope you will continue to support and stand with us as we look ahead to many more successful years.

Dinushka De Silva
US Coordinator

Gemma Carpentar
UK Coordinator

2009 Summer Experiences from the Winants and Claytons

"Ronald McDonald House is by far the most amazing, welcoming and original place I have ever worked. The staff, families, children all made my experiences the best it could have been."

"I have had the very best experience I could have hoped for (Fountain House). It is the most rewarding and supportive environment I've had the good fortune to work in. Both staff and members were amazing."

"Programmes like WCV offer something to volunteers and communities that will forever be invaluable. The reward of the service you do as a WCV is immeasurable."

At first I was unsure about working with the mentally ill because I'd never experienced that group before, but it was a great experience and I really benefitted from it. I wasn't sure what to expect when I signed up to be a Winant and Clayton Volunteer. I really just knew that I wanted to work with people. Mosaic Clubhouse far exceeded my expectation for the summer. It exposed me to a new type of volunteer work and allowed me to fit into a tight knit community for the summer, both at Mosaic and WCV."

"For a long time I've lived a very selfish existence, only thinking and doing things for myself. This summer I remembered that who I am really is a giver and how good it feels to give. It makes your soul smile. I am going to take this home with me and continue to pay it forward."

"Without Winant and Clayton Volunteers I wouldn't have experienced the most amazing summer I've experienced in all my 32 years. So I say, thank you, thank you and did I mention THANK YOU!"

"Boys and Girls Harbor is the best placement ever - I was devastated when I had to leave. I had the best summer of my life working there and I will never forget it. The teachers are so friendly and the kids are amazing. 100% the best!"

"Volunteering is something everyone should do, but getting to immerse yourself into a culture is a gift. The friendship I've made with the other volunteers as well as a number of Brits will be with me forever."

"After learning the basis of the programme and why it began, I took more pride in my title as a Winant. The history behind the programme gives it more worth and today the programme still perpetuates the original mission."



2009 Volunteer Placements



"Neighbours in Poplar and SPLASH, both registered charities working in Poplar (the Eastern End of Tower Hamlets), have benefited enormously from the gifted volunteers who have come across the Atlantic to help our very diverse community. Most of our individuals and families are very deprived (by recognised Health and Housing standards), despite their proximity to the wealth of Canary Wharf. The US volunteers have been a real pleasure to work with, each different, but flexible and free spirits and we are really happy to be beneficiaries of this programme."

Sister Christine
Neighbours In Poplar

"The Ronald McDonald House of New York has had a long standing wonderful relationship with Winant Clayton. Ronald McDonald House of NY is a Home Away from Home for families of children undergoing pediatric cancer treatment.

This past summer, Nicole, our wonderful Winant Clayton counselor, was incredible at keeping our children safe and secure. Her warm smile, tender touch was essential in keeping the program steady. Nicole was fantastic with our "tots." Yes....everyone was involved in ALL programs/activities including our 2 1/2 - 5 year and Nicole was there and always ready for our next adventure. Her love for children was evident...a perfect role model.

The staff, Board Members and volunteers @ Winant Clayton are First Class. I/We tip our hat to you and applaud your good service and will to help those around you. BRAVO!!!!!! We look forward to continuing our relationship."

Nelida Barreto
Director of Programs
Ronald McDonald House of New York, Inc.



"I had a dynamic summer with Natalie Dunleavy and Gina Lucas. I absolutely hated to see them leave this summer. Both women were professional with a capital "P." I loved Natalie's ability to troubleshoot quickly and Gina's willingness to handle any task. Both women taught our students, organized our supply closets, chaperoned on trips and created tasks that made running the program much easier this summer. Our children appreciated their kindness and it was evident that they both had a genuine care for each child. I appreciate all the work they did. We are still experiencing the good effects!"

Asadah Kirkland
Program Coordinator
Junior Education at Boys and Girls Harbor

2009 Volunteer Placements



Mosaic

Clubhouse

"Mosaic clubhouse is based in London and is part of the worldwide network of Clubhouses. At Mosaic we work with people who have severe and enduring mental ill health. The ethos of our organization is founded on building relationships.

I have been working at Mosaic for over eight years and during this time we have always had Winant Clayton volunteers with us for seven weeks during summer. The members of the Clubhouse look forward to their time with us. The Winant Clayton volunteers work along side the members and help them to achieve their goals. We are so fortunate to have had some great people over the years and they have never disappointed us. We are so grateful for the help they have given us and look forward to working with them in the future."

Bev Randall
Programme manager
Mosaic Clubhouse



"Staff as well as clients eagerly anticipate the arrival of the Clayton. "The Clayton volunteer" is now a brand, representing a combination of things: the onset of summer, a visitor from England, a fresh face, a different accent and, ultimately, someone they know is specifically here to cater to their needs whether it be simply companionship and conversation, an assisted walk outside while the weather is more mobility-friendly, a shopper for someone who is homebound, an escort to doctor appointments, an organizer of those papers or objects which have been overlooked. In addition to serving our clients, it's important to us that the Clayton has a positive and memorable experience, whether they enjoyed a relationship with a special client or simply welcomed a new attitude towards aging since they see a wide variety of elderly people and realize each one is unique and has something to impart."

Robin Strashun
Volunteer Coordinator
Search and Care



"Providence Row Charity has been delighted with the volunteers sent by Winant Clayton. Providence Row is a day centre in the heart of London, providing a safe haven and support for homeless and vulnerable people. This year's Winant Clayton volunteers worked with our meaningful occupation team, which runs activities like IT and art workshops, a bicycle repair group and help with job search - all aimed at building clients' self-esteem, giving our clients a structure to their days, and a sense of purpose. Our clients aren't always easy to engage with, or to motivate, but Jessica and Arturo brought a wealth of enthusiasm, humour, strength and warmth, encouraging clients to sign up to workshops which eventually led to a newsletter written and produced entirely by the clients themselves. We're looking forward to seeing what next year's volunteers bring us!"

Judith Fessler
Organisational Development Officer
Providence Row

Our Financial Futures

Since the volunteer exchange programme began, over 50 years ago, a few thousand people have had the opportunity to support disadvantaged communities in London and New York while developing new skills, experiencing a different culture, and making lifelong friends in the process.

Reaching important milestones often prompts people to think about the past and consider the journey travelled. As the UK celebrates fifty years, the story behind the founding of the exchange programme is still inspiring, and the many challenges overcome by all the people who have worked so hard to continue the work of John Winant and Tubby Clayton are a testament to how much we all still believe in their vision.

It is this belief in the Winant Clayton mission of promoting cultural understanding between the US and UK through volunteering and supporting those most in need, that make us determined to ensure that the volunteer exchange continues for another 50 years to come. We need your help to make this happen!

In the US, we have always been totally financially dependent on the generosity of those who have participated in and benefitted from their experiences as Winant Volunteers, as well as the help of their friends. This has been a testament to the effect that this has had on our lives – sometimes literally life-changing and continent-changing. In the UK, raising significant funds from single donors such as Trusts and Grant-making bodies is becoming increasingly challenging, and so every donation from individuals is really important.

Most of you would say that you received far more from the program than you gave, and that is mostly true, so this is again our annual pitch. Our operating budgets are small, but while in the US we have a secure fund from our 50th anniversary some 10 years ago, there was an operating deficit this last year principally due to two reasons. The first was the commitment the Board made to fund the London coordinator for six months, and the second was investment interest from our money-market funds, which as we all know, produced almost no income at all in the past year.

So we need your help again. The Boards are frugal, but there are funds needed to run even the most frugal operation. We are once again asking for your assistance and dedication to Winant and Clayton. We thank you for all your help in the past and present.

There are a number of ways that you can support Winant and Clayton:

Cash donations - Your donation will help maintain the offices and support the work of our coordinators.

In kind - You can donate useful items such as prizes for fundraisers and IT equipment, Consultancy services or access to members of your network who might be able to support us in some way.

Donating your time - This is a form of support we can't put a price on! Helping others by giving time, energy and passion is at the heart of the Winant Clayton ethos. We need you to help us to continue helping others by volunteering for the offices. If you have a specific skill or area of expertise, or even if you're not sure which area of activity you'd like to support, please get in touch!

To offer your support for the **London office**, contact winantclaytonvolunteers@hotmail.co.uk or go to www.winantclayton.org.uk. For for the **New York office**, contact info@winantclaytonvolunteers.org or call 212-737-2720, ext. 31 for more information.

Thank you!

Celebrating 50 years of friendship through volunteering

On 21 November, Winant Clayton Volunteers will mark the 50th anniversary of the volunteer exchange programme with a special celebration event at St Matthias community centre in Poplar, East London.

While the US office was founded in 1948, the UK branch of Winant Clayton Volunteers was established in 1959 when British volunteers began travelling to the USA to support communities in and around New York state. This year, the UK team will host an event which gathers together members of our growing alumni, supporters and friends, both old and new, to reflect on the great achievements of the past 50 years.

Esteemed guests including Consul General, Mr. Derwood Staeben, Consular Officer, Mr. Neil Helbraun from the US Embassy in London; Ken Prideaux-Brune and Elaine Crush from the Wakefield Trust; Edgar Masters, Urchin Kennedy, Kim Wright and Pam Riding from the US Board; and alumni from over the five decades will join the UK Board for dinner, dancing and live music. This will be a great opportunity for alumni to be reunited, meet fellow members of the Winant Clayton 'family' and reminisce over the time they spent in London or New York.

This event will also mark the start of an important new phase for the UK and US teams who are renewing their commitment to reaching the most disadvantaged in East London and New York and increasing the number of volunteer places available from next year. We look forward to sharing photos and anecdotes from the 50th anniversary event and our progress on developing the programme with you on the Facebook group (Winant Clayton Volunteers - Past and Present) and on our websites.

Miya Allen
UK Board Member

It's never too late for dreams to come true, please help us make more come true

I was sitting on a train in London in the autumn of 2003 reading the small ads when one jumped out at me, 'Do you want to work in New York for 8 weeks next summer?' My heart gave an instant leap and my mind yelled 'Yes!' But then reality kicked in. I was 58, an age when the closing sound of doors of opportunity begins to get deafening. They wouldn't want me, this was for youngsters. I looked on the website – no mention of age limits. And the projects weren't all about kids' camps, there was other grown up stuff like staffing day centres, delivering meals on wheels. I began to have hope...

After 4 months of keeping my expectations low my wish was granted and the following year I spent a wonderful summer in New York. My experiences of expansion, joy, and then total sadness when it came to leave are the same as other volunteers. I learned so much. I have a completely different perspective on Americans and America now. We worked hard, 5 days a week. I was astonished to find the 6am shift in the kitchen of my 'meals-on-wheels' placement packed with city types who made up the day's meal cartons until 8.30am and then went to work. I enjoyed volunteering so much that I did much more volunteering when I came home, including for Winant Clayton.

I am a Trustee now, a role which helps me keep my grey matter ticking over, and also of course helps enable other people to have the same wonderful experience as me. One of our constant worries is money. We've been steadily drawing on our reserves and our viability now hangs in the balance. It would be so sad if we had to close, especially after 50 wonderful years. Just a small regular donation can make a big difference. And, as there will be several other friends of Winant Clayton around my own age, I hope you won't mind me asking if you could think about us in your will.

Gillian Kempster
UK Board Member

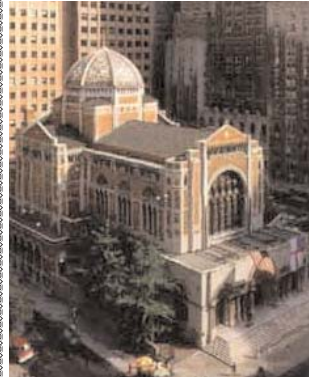


The Church of the Epiphany

It is hard believe that 30 years ago I was at St. Bartholomew and welcomed the Winant Clayton Volunteers to their 'new' home. I recall the wonderful associations with Riv and Joan and trips to London for the Queen Mother's Garden Party in those former years. I left St. Bart's in 1990 to be the Vice-Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle and lost contact with the Winant Family.

I returned to New York as the rector of Epiphany Church in 1998 and it has been especially gratifying for me to resume my association with the Winants. A few years ago we had a Clayton Volunteer working with our Homeless Dinner Program. Several months ago I was thrilled when asked if we might host the Winant program at Epiphany. It is a wonderful organization which I hold in high esteem and when our Vestry unanimously approved the joint plan I was overjoyed. As a longtime friend I look forward to renewing old associations and meeting new friends. It's good to be back with the Winant Clayton Volunteers.

The Rev. Canon Andrew Mullins
Rector



Thank you St. Bart's

Thirty years ago, in 1979, we went to talk with St. Bart's to see whether, for administrative purposes, we could go in with them, and they welcomed us. Andrew Mullins and Wilhelmina Eaken became an integral part of the Winant family.

The St. Bart's Community Club is home to a wide variety of social service programs, regardless of religion, and we felt that we fit right in. For years, Claytons have worked in sports and summer programs for kids, as well as in the homeless shelter and food programs there.

Those who would still optimistically call themselves middle-aged might remember leaving St. Bart's on their way to begin a five or ten day ocean voyage, with a summer which included Iona, Tower Hill and Poperinghe. So we have been in debt to St. Bart's for, to put it vaguely, ever since we can all remember. We all thank them deeply, and our new digs, at the Church of the Epiphany, has a familiar face, that of Andrew Mullins. They know they have a tough act to follow.

Nick Robertshaw
US Board Member

A Farewell and Thank you to Nicholas Furrow and Amy Bantz

Nick came back to us two years ago, when the American side was at a watershed. Nanette had 'retired' as had Riv and Joan, and we were having anxious discussions as to the future. We had sent out a letter to all former Winants for guidance as to what the best way forward might be, including the possibility of dissolution. Nick came forward and said - 'Hey - the program is great, I'll run it. I have my own lighting business in Brooklyn, but I know I can squeeze the time in to do this'. Well - after that we did not hear much about the lighting business, and he really devoted himself heart and soul to getting things moving. The energy and enthusiasm expended were infectious, as were the array of ideas that were put on the table. We had a viable program again. He then moved to the UK to assist there as well.

As a result of his move to the UK we were fortunate enough to receive Amy Bantz as our US Coordinator. Her warmth and hard work shined through as our volunteers and placement supervisors praised her. She assisted the new UK Coordinator, Gemma, in getting settled.

Amy and Nick accomplished so much and their strength in turn helped Winant and Clayton succeed. Nick and Amy, the time you gave us was invaluable, so was the motivation you found and sustained whilst working solo. The tireless support you gave the volunteers in their placements and social time and perhaps most of all the calmness you endowed in those flurried moments.

From us all - thank you.

UK BRANCH

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