**Vimbai wrote this article about volunteering at Creating Better Futures**

At the beginning of my university journey the thought of doing volunteering work didn’t sound attractive and the idea of volunteering for the sake of my CV sounded like a burden. But much to my surprise, ever since I started volunteering for Creating Better Futures I would recommend volunteering with these three things that I learned.

**Being CV oriented**

It’s no secret that the competition to finding a job is harder than ever before. As students we’re advised to do anything that will give us the competitive advantage when job hunting which usually points us to considering volunteering. Approaching volunteering with this attitude may be making students blind to other fun aspects of volunteering that can lessen the pressure to do volunteering to gain skills for a CV. Creating Better Futures, one of RAG’s chosen charities, is a Reading-based charity, that works to provide vulnerable children in Zimbabwe with the opportunity to go to school. Working as an events and fundraising co-ordinator for the charity and seeing the how I add to the success of the charity has pushed me to be creative in my role. Through carrying out such meaningful work, the satisfaction I feel with every target I meet as part of the team has made volunteering less about myself and building a CV and more about

**Volunteering is empowering**

Creating Better Futures’ co-founder, Dorothy Dix, is a University of Reading alumni whose sponsorship to study at the university inspired a genuine passion to create similar opportunities for other children. From the beginning the goal and spirit behind the charity is very clear and sincere. The product we work towards as a team is not something tangible. The product is hope and smiles on children’s faces. It is love and opportunity to have a platform to build a future. So whether it’s volunteering to put posters around the university, posting on social media, designing leaflets and charity merchandise or organising fundraising events, it’s very easy to see the lasting impact of the various volunteering roles. So far as a result 135 children are going to school and receiving welfare support. That’s 135 futures we have rewritten with a message of hope! This leads to my final point.

**Dynamite does come in small packages!**

It’s easy to be drawn to larger and better known organisations when thinking of volunteering. After all, it adds to that competitive advantage when you’re looking for work. But be very careful not to overlook and consider smaller local charities. It may be better to gain work experience with a renowned organisation but there is so much to learn and experience to be gained with a smaller organisation. During my time volunteering for Creating Better Futures, in addition to professional skills I may have gained at a large organisation, I have gained insight on how a small business is run; from what goes into developing marketing and fundraising strategies to handling aspects of human resources. As it is a small organisation there is room for growth in most of the roles as the charity expands and much guidance and advice to be given directly from the CEO.