

## Community involvement case study

### Making a difference: Community garden makeover

**Aim:** To transform an overgrown garden for use by local students and wider community to educate in growing vegetables and healthy eating.  
**Area:** Swadlincote, Derbyshire (UK)  
**Date:** 23 - 24 October 2008  
**Funding:** Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd & South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service

#### Project overview

Eight volunteers from Toyota Manufacturing UK have spent two days transforming an overgrown garden in Swadlincote, Derbyshire. The garden will mainly be used by the students from Pingle School. Local groups will also use the space to grow vegetables which will be used as part of a “grow-to-eat” healthy eating awareness campaign in the Swadlincote area. The event was part of “Make a Difference Day”, the largest single day of volunteering activity in the UK.

Over the two days the Toyota volunteers created raised seedbeds, borders, pathways and a living wall. Nine students from the Pingle School Special Needs Unit had already cleared the part of the site, built seed boxes and grown a number of plants for the new raised garden beds.

The Toyota volunteers are all from the shift that has been temporarily suspended due to current market conditions. The team are using their time off the production line to take part in training and quality activities, and to help with sustainability projects in their local community.



#### Testimonial

*“We are delighted that Toyota is supporting this activity which will make a real difference to the pupils and voluntary groups in the area. The environment is high on the agenda for both our organisations and creating this sustainable resource will act as the springboard for other initiatives based around healthy eating and lifestyles. We hope that having such a high profile supporter as Toyota will inspire other companies to get their employees involved in future challenges.”*

**Jo Smith**, Chief Executive, South Derbyshire CVS

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