

# the right connection

## Young people seizing the day



TRAVEL broadens the mind, or so the old adage claims.

Springboard is a Belfast based organisation which works with young people from North, South, and West Belfast and Lisburn areas and also Tallaght in Dublin, sending them abroad on training programmes aimed at building their self confidence and enhancing their employment prospects.

Currently we have young people from Northern and Southern Ireland working in solicitors offices, travel agents and government buildings in Canada, others working in youth clubs, schools, nurseries, sports centres in America, film studios, recording companies and photographers in Vancouver Canada and a group on a community based programme working in Capetown, South Africa.

Springboard run various programmes that are cross community and cross border, working with young unemployed people aged 18 - 29 years. Our programmes are split into three phases:

**Pre-departure.** This is when the participants train for their chosen work experience. For example, someone on a youth

and community programme would be trained in areas such as child protection, leadership and community development, someone on an administration or business programme would be trained in office skills such as IT, filing, faxing, telephone techniques etc.

**The overseas phase.** The participants travel to their destination to gain invaluable work experience overseas. Flights, accommodation and food are paid for and Springboard finds suitable work placement. Participants get paid during training and in placement, with travel expenses also covered.

**The return phase** is when a personal advisor meets the participant to discuss the way forward back into employment, training or education, using new found skills, and qualifications to choose the right career path.

Springboard works to enhance the personal development of the young people involved, striving to help participants to value our diversity for its richness rather than being seen as something which is threatening. If interested contact Paul on 02890315111