

Honor Dignan and Alex James were presented with an environmental award at the East 15 Community Theatre in Southend on 22nd February 2011 by Rachel Riley, the presenter of Countdown on Channel 4. The event was organised by Essex Southend and Thurrock vinvolved team who acknowledge young people from all over Essex aged 16-25 who have shown outstanding volunteering and commitment within their local community. The girls were the overall winners and nominated by Sally Feeney, their tutor for Society, Health & Development at the Stanford & Corringham Sixth Form Centre.



**Honor & Alex receiving their award from Rachel Riley**

As part of the course students have to complete a work placement and both girls were based at Beacon Hill School in Erriff Drive, South Ockendon as teaching assistants. As part of their Extended Project they successfully created a

sensory garden for disabled children which took 8 months to plan. They originally planned their ideas in a project book during lessons and then had to bring them to life. Not only did they do all the physical work preparing the space, choosing, buying and planting the shrubs and flowers but also managed to obtain £450 of sponsorship from local businesses to fund the project. The area was unused before and now it is a calm, inviting, colourful space for all the children to enjoy. The school were absolutely thrilled with the end result and the girls thoroughly deserved their glass trophy, certificates and gift vouchers.

Both girls were also awarded a 'vfifty' award from Vinvolved (a Government project) for giving a total of 50 hours volunteering to the local community.



**The finished Sensory Garden at Beacon Hill**

After completing her course this summer Alex will be taking a year out before starting her degree in Social Work in 2012.