

SCHEME NEWS

Newsletter for volunteers,
families and friends of
Home-Start Warrington



Home Start

Support and friendship
for families

celebrating
15 years

Winter 2014

Inspiration Awards - Charity of the Year!!



One of our volunteers, Jacqui, was nominated by the Mum she supports for an Inspiration Award at the Warrington Guardian Inspiration Award Ceremony. Home-Start Warrington was awarded the Charity of the Year by sponsors EMR (European Metal Recycling), a fabulous accolade which reinforces the great work our charity does.

We were also the beneficiary of the raffle on the evening and this raised £416, thanks to the generosity of the people attending the event.

Pictured from left to right, EMR Group HR Director Angela Jones, Kate Griffiths, Scheme Manager, Maxine (Mum) and Jacqui Emmerson, (Volunteer)

Picture supplied by Warrington Guardian.

Warrington's English Half Marathon

The English Half took place again this year on 21st September. Home-Start had two runners, Nick Bent, Labour's Parliamentary Candidate in Warrington South and Dave Scully, Office Manager Steph's husband.

A great big thanks goes to them both for running the full 13.1 miles and also to you who sponsored them.

Between them, they raised a massive £1041.

If you are thinking of getting fitter in the New Year and you would like to take part next year, please consider raising funds for us.

Their pages are still open for sponsorship - it's still not too late!

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/nickbent>

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/davidscully2>





Our New Volunteers

On 12th November, our latest volunteers completed their 10 week training course and are all now waiting to support their first family. The volunteers are pictured with Kate, Scheme Manager, after being awarded their Safeguarding and End of Course Certificates. We are training again on Wednesday 14th January 2015 and we are recruiting NOW!

Want to know what's involved? Call Steph, for a no obligation chat on 01925 652320/576100

Farewell to Fay, our Volunteer & Outreach Co-Ordinator

On 30th October, Fay Matthews left Home-Start to start a new career with Fostering Solutions in Northwich. Fay's Social Work degree has enabled her to secure this position to give guidance and support to Foster Carers. Fay said she was sad to leave the scheme. She had completed the volunteer course in April 2013 and was then employed with us since January 2014 and had enjoyed her time with us.



Pictured with Fay, left to right, Leanne, Rachel, Kate, Tracey & Steph.



Families Christmas Party

This year, our Family Christmas Party was on Friday 12th December, at Orford Jubilee Hub. The children were entertained by Jan, at Caterpillar Music. We played with musical instruments, puppets, danced and sang Christmas songs too. Then the children had lunch and the parents enjoyed a drink and cake.

Great fun was had by all.

Thanks to the Hub events team for accommodating us and to all the volunteers who supported their families on the day.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Volunteer Training Events

Our Volunteers have recently been invited to various training events, including Nurture, Autism, Child Development and most recently Make Every Contact Count. This training was delivered by Chris Foulkes, tutor at Warrington Collegiate. It was informative, interesting and enjoyed by the staff, volunteers and trustees. We then enjoyed a hotpot and apple pie lunch.



Donations

Once again, we are very grateful for all funds donated to us.

The Volunteer Expenses donated back in to the scheme since 1st April 2014 totals a massive £1335.55

Other donations, since our last Newsletter include:-

£500 donated by Lymm Roundtable, following their Bonfire event on 8th November. Thanks to sponsors Kids Planet Lymm who alerted charities that they could apply for a share of these proceeds.

£30 cash donation from one of our ex-volunteers Julie Rampling, plus a £10 hair voucher for use in her salon.

Stationery donated by Mel at Costco, Haydock.

Easy Fundraising - £77.08 (A big thankyou to all who raise funds for us this way)

Additional Donation - £20

Toy Sacks

A reminder to all our Home Visit volunteers about our Toy Sacks. You are welcome to pop in the office to choose one to take on your visits to your family. Just give a ring ahead to make sure we are in the office to help you.

Partnership work with Giggles Play Mill

Giggles Play Mill, Evans House Warrington has recently provided us with passes for the families that we are currently working with. They entitle the family to enter the play mill for £2 per child, Monday - Thursday from 9.30 am. If any of our current supported families don't have this pass and would like one,

please contact Steph on 01925 652320/576100

Contact for Giggles Play Mill is 01925 445753, 3rd Floor Evans House, Warrington WA2 7HW.



Update for our Referrers

Just to inform you that we have now lifted our Criteria for Support and we are now accepting referrals as normal. If you do not have the most recent referral for with our new address on, you can download one from <http://homestart-warrington.org.uk/need-help>, or you can email the office.

The Warm Home Discount Scheme.

There is some information on www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/heating to see if you can qualify for a £140 one off discount on your electricity bill (not a payment) Eligibility includes, your supplier being part of this scheme, your name is on the bill, you were getting the Guarantee Credit element of pension credit and in some cases, some suppliers may offer discount to vulnerable people, such as families on low income. If you do qualify, you will get a letter advising you what to do next. The Warm Home Discount Scheme can be contacted on 0345 603 9439 (charges apply)



Trussell Trust - Foodbank

We're collecting goods to donate to the local Foodbank. We have a collecting box in the office and goods include, UHT or powdered milk, Sugar, Carton juice, Soup, Pasta sauces, cereal, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, tins of meat, fish, fruit & veg. If you would like to donate, please do. Ring first to check we are in and we will send the goods to one of our local foodbanks.

Home-Start Warrington's Facebook Fundraising Page

With the help of Mel, our Volunteer, we have set up our own Fundraising page on Facebook. Any goods/clothes donated to us that cannot be given straight away to one of our supported families, goes on the page to raise money for our Family Fund. This is a small pot of money that we are able to use to purchase additional goods for our families, or to help fund trips and outings. Please let all your family and friends know of the site. This will hopefully become a good way to raise much needed funds. Search for Home-Start Warrington Fundraising Page on Facebook.

Also, you can help to raise funds, at no cost to you, by registering with easy fundraising at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hswarrington>. Then every time you buy online we get a donation from the retailer. It's a great way to raise much needed funds for us. We can even help you to set this up on your PC/Laptop.



Warrington Compact

Warrington's Local Compact has just been launched. Home-Start Warrington has now signed up.

The Local Compact is the partnership agreement between the public sector and the community and voluntary sector in Warrington, to work better together for everyone in the town. It also offers a framework to ensure that the sector is involved in the decision making process at the earliest opportunity.

If your organisation would like to sign up or for more information, contact Becky Brown; rebecca@warringtonva.org.uk

