

SCHEMENEWS

Home START

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



Support and friendship
for families

Winter 2015

English Half Marathon



This event took place on Sunday 20th September. Once again, Nick Bent and Dave Scully ran and raised for us, but also this year, 5 staff from Watson's solicitors joined in the fundraising. Between them all, they raised £987.

Many thanks and very well done to all our runners! Entries are open now for 2016 – if you would like to run to support us – give us a call. 01925 652320



Our new website

We have been lucky enough to have had our website redesigned! Space48 of Birchwood Park donated their time and expertise and have worked with us over a number of months to produce a fantastic redesign and update of our old site. It is now live and can also be accessed on mobile and tablet too.

Please give it a check out and your feedback is welcome. www.homestart-warrington.org.uk



Newly trained volunteers!



On 2nd December, the training volunteers completed their 10 week prep course. Another 10 families will benefit from home visit support. Pictured with Kate, Scheme Manager, we welcome Stef, Anne, Rebecca, Angela, Mel, Annelise, Debbie, Lindsay, Michelle and Elizabeth. Some of the volunteers have requested that they start supporting before Christmas and the rest will be working in the New Year. We wish them all the best of luck.

Donations

Once again, we are very grateful for all funds donated to us and other miscellaneous income.

The Volunteer Expenses donated back in to the scheme since 1st April 2015 - £1,136.63

Staff travel expenses donated back to the scheme - £50.02

Other donations, since our last Newsletter include:-

English Half Marathon sponsorship - £987

Volunteer donation via CAF - £250

Warrington Voluntary Action Competition win - £100

Colony Networking Event, via Kirsty James - £187.71

Lymm & District Roundtable - £500

Easy Fundraising - £38.05

Gift Aid - £346.92

Volunteer Donation - £30

Yorkshire Building Society - £100

Asda "Chosen by you" (green tokens) - £50

Many thanks!

Volunteer Support Groups - September

On 22nd September, the volunteers attended a volunteer support group. Diane Grylls, one of our Home Visit volunteers did a presentation on Bonding and Attachment Awareness. She shared her knowledge of this area to heighten the volunteer's understanding of the subject.

In December

This event was the Volunteer's Christmas celebration. Tracey Dean informed the volunteers about the Families Together Project. Miranda Greenwood spoke to the volunteers about the "Read along with Home-Start" project and Gwen Lightfoot, Chair of Home-Start, introduced herself and spoke about the role of the trustees. One lucky volunteer won the cheese and port raffle prize. Then all the volunteers enjoyed a hotpot and apple pie lunch.



Message to Referrers

Our criteria for support has now been lifted. We are accepting all relevant referrals now, as we have 10 new volunteers to offer support in the New Year.

You can download a form from our new website on the "Need Help" page

<http://homestart-warrington.org.uk/help/>

Also, referrals for January and February's Families Together Course are now being taken. Forms can be accessed on the same page – Just click the relevant links.

Important
Message



Families Christmas Event

This year, our families and their volunteers enjoyed the Winter Wonderland event at Walton Hall and Gardens. During the day, the children decorated a Christmas bauble, walked around the zoo and petted the animals and then visited Santa, where they all received a gift. We all met up for lunch, where the children all received a lunch box too. A great time was had by all!

raise funds for us when you shop online



Easy Fundraising

Did you know that you can safely download a "Find and remind toolbar" onto your computer (or an app on your mobile)? If you shop on line and are registered with Easy Fundraising and choose us as beneficiary, every time you shop you will be reminded to raise for us! It's Easy! Every penny counts! Please consider! This year, we have raised £113.50.

Let's boost our supporters in 2016 -

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/donation-reminder/toolbar-install>

Christmas Boxes

Once again, we would like to thank the fantastic organisations who have donated Christmas Gift Boxes and food parcels for our supported families.



These include the fantastic teams at

BT ELC who have supported us over the last 3 years, also thanks to the BT GBFM legal team, Space 48 and Openreach Production Planning Team.

Check out our Facebook page to view more pictures.

Christmas

The office will be closed from Wednesday 23rd December and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2016. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Families, Home Visit Volunteers, Trustee Volunteers, Referrers, Supporters and Friends a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In particular, our Funders get a great big thanks, without them, we could not continue:-

Big Lottery, Cheshire Community Foundation, Warrington Borough Council Public Health. The Morgan Foundation, Warrington Pensioners Association, Children in Need, Sure Start, St James Foundation, Watsons Solicitors, Asda, Total Steel & Fabrication, Nick Bent, Cheshire Connect, Dave Scully, Penketh Methodist Church, Yorkshire Building Society, Nationwide Building Society, Lymm & District Roundtable, Colony Networking Group, Wolves Foundation & all Volunteer Donations.

Apologies if we have left anyone off the list!

We hope that you will continue to support and work with us in 2016.