

# SCHEMENEWS

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

Winter 2016

Charity Number 1116515 Company Number 05563277



# Home Start

Support and friendship  
for families



## Big Hopes Big Future

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, we launched our new project “Big Hopes Big Future”. Kate & Helen have been trained by Home-Start UK to be able to deliver this project to targeted Warrington families. The course ran for 6 weeks at Meadowside Primary School, working with families within the 2 and 3 year nursery settings. The aim of the project is to help families to get their child “school ready”. Topics covered include routines around mealtime, bedtime, literacy development, toilet training and self help skills ready for

starting school. The parents had lunch together and each week received different resources to enhance their child’s development.

## Support a Family

On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, we launched our “Support a Family” initiative. The launch was held at the Halliwell Jones Stadium and a number of leading Warrington companies attended a breakfast event to launch the initiative. ‘Support a Family’ enables companies to support a specific family that Home-Start Warrington is working with. Through the sponsorship provided by the companies they know they are having a direct impact on the family’s well-being and will receive regular updates on how the family is progressing.

The event was chaired by David Briggs, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire & MD of Dawson’s Music, with input from Kate Griffiths (Home-Start Warrington Manager) and Diane Nicholson, family support volunteer. Kate & Diane gave an outline on the charity’s work and how the families will directly benefit from the ‘Support a Family’ initiative. To date six companies have signed up and the initiative will be rolled out during 2017.



## Volunteer Preparation Course

Our recent group of trainees completed their course on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The Volunteers are pictured with Tracey Dean, Family Support Co-ordinator (left) who delivered the last session and Gwen Lightfoot, Chair of Trustees (right) Well done ladies, you will soon be starting to support a family!

## Families Christmas Party

Our Families Christmas Party took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The children were entertained by Jan of Caterpillar Music, who created a Christmas themed music and dance session. The parents and children enjoyed party food! The children also received an advent calendar donated by Warrington Foodbank and they also received a Christmas themed book. The team, pictured right (Santa's elves) all worked hard to ensure that the children and parents had lots of fun.



## Volunteers Christmas event

The Volunteers event was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The guest speaker was from Warrington Women's Aid, talking about Domestic Abuse and how and where to get help. Also, at this session the volunteers were awarded gifts based on their length of service to



Home-Start. Presentations were made by Gwen Lightfoot, Chair of our Committee.



## Volunteer Long Service Awards

We have recently presented long service awards to our Home Visit Volunteers. Sarah Pilling, has volunteered with us for 7 years! She is pictured with Kate & Helen receiving her bouquet of flowers. Sarah has supported numerous families during this time and her "specialism" is multiples, as she has twins of her own and is a great support around routines, preparing for trips out and offering respite for Mum. She is currently supporting a family with triplets. Mum describes Sarah as a "lifeline". Congratulations to Sarah! You, and all our volunteers do a sterling job.



## Christmas Gift Box Donations

This year our charity has done really well for donations of Christmas boxes for the families that we support. A great big thanks to Duncan and his team from BT ELC, Westbrook, just a few of the many donations pictured right. Also, thanks to the Space 48 team at Birchwood, their donations pictured on the next page. Also, big thanks to the congregations of St Thomas's and St Mary Magdalene's churches in Stockton Heath, pictured next page.





Space 48 Team

St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene Churches



We also had a donation of gifts & presents from NEXT Distribution, Winwick Quay, Warrington.

Next Distribution



The staff team and the volunteers are working hard now to get all the gifts to the families before we break for Christmas on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The office will re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.

## Easy Fundraising

In 2017, we are aiming to increase the number our supporters who shop online. Easy Fundraising is an affiliation website with hundreds of retailers, travel companies, insurance companies, supermarkets etc. If you shop through this website and choose Home-Start Warrington as the beneficiary, then we will receive a donation at no cost to you. It may just be pence - but it could be pounds and every bit helps us. We have 87 current supporters and we have raised over £1,292 during that last 7 years! Find us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hswarrington/>

## Donations

Volunteer donations since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 - £682.57. Thanks to our amazing volunteers!  
Other donations since the last Newsletter;  
£100 from the Gentleman's Book Society  
£1,000 from Bolton Structures.  
£70 from our volunteer Sandra Clarke and her friends Doreen Vickers and Glenda Reid, who made the donation in place of sending Christmas cards!  
£30 donation from Julie Rampling one of our ex-volunteers, who also donated instead of sending Christmas cards.

## Social Media!

Home-Start Warrington has Facebook and Twitter pages. We use them to share events, jobs, advice from other professionals and also to highlight the great work that we do supported by our fantastic volunteers. If you already follow us, please share our pages to your own family, friends, work colleagues and followers.  
If you don't then please follow or like us at: - <https://www.facebook.com/HSWarrington>  
[https://twitter.com/HomeStart\\_Warr](https://twitter.com/HomeStart_Warr)

## "We wish you a Merry Christmas"

The Staff of Home-Start Warrington would like to take the opportunity to wish a very Merry Christmas to our Funders, Referrers, Supporters, Friends, Fundraisers, Sponsors, Trustees, Volunteers and Families. We couldn't do what we do without each and every one of you. All the very best!