



# Child Concern Consortium

## Supporter's Newsletter

Your gift supports our 5 charities.

Child Concern Consortium



Five children's charities in one

### Hello everyone



I would like to say a really **BIG** thank you to all of you for continuing your kind donations to CCC throughout such a difficult year. I am constantly amazed at

the generosity shown by others to those less fortunate than themselves especially when it is in such challenging times for us all.

Thank you also to our home moneybox supporters who have triumphed through the postal disruption by managing to return their cheques to us so promptly! Also to those of you who have kindly converted your payments to monthly direct debit. And for anyone still needing to empty their boxes, please do use the tear-off slip at the end of this newsletter by marking it 'moneybox'.

And finally, thank you to those of you who have kindly increased your regular gift to CCC this year, for which we are extremely grateful. It's amazing how just a £1 increase per week can quickly accumulate to enable us to continue our important work – every extra penny helps and really does help to change children's lives for the better - thank you.

I hope you will all enjoy a very happy Christmas and New Year.

With warmest wishes,  
Jayne

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### Quality Care for disabled children



Working Families' **Waving not drowning** network for parents of disabled children has its work cut out.

August was a good time to find out if lack of suitable childcare is a real barrier to paid work for parents of disabled children, so we surveyed our network. A whopping 70% of respondents said it was. One mother said, **'It's just brick wall after brick wall!'**

One quarter of those surveyed had to take unpaid leave because of lack of suitable care for their children this summer and, distressingly, 3% of respondents actually had to leave their jobs. Of those in work, 39% felt their responsibilities prevented them progressing in their careers or limited their ability to change jobs.

Parents reminded us that not only was care for their disabled children needed to enable parents to work, but the summer is a time when all children should have the chance to socialise with friends and take part in fun activities. Children who require support shouldn't be missing out.

As well as giving advice, we now know that we must also redouble our long-term campaigning to ensure that the care is available for parents of disabled children to work, progress their careers and support their families.

Thank you all for your continued support of our network.  
[www.workingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk)

### Outstanding support for children



Harlequin Day Nursery has achieved an 'outstanding' report from Ofsted within a year of opening. The nursery is based in Witham at one of the ten children's centres in Essex run by 4Children. It forms part of an expanding network of provision being developed by 4Children as the third largest provider of children's centres in England.

The nursery opened in September 2008 and offers a positive environment where children can learn through play, socialise and have fun.

As one parent said, **"I'm really pleased because of the various activities offered to my child. It's helped my little boy interact socially with other children while also teaching him how to share."** And the children are equally pleased, with some of their favourite things about the nursery being playing with the staff, seeing their friends, and doing sports and dancing.



Making Pizza!

Through having their say in projects such as developing the role play area, the children's participation is a key ingredient in Harlequin's ongoing drive for excellence. Your ongoing support of our important work helps to make this happen – thank you so much.  
[www.4children.org.uk](http://www.4children.org.uk)

## Caring for sick children



Parents are under a great deal of stress when nursing a sick child and sometimes they find it difficult and upsetting when trying to obtain the best care for them.

One parent phoned our Helpline last week because she was having difficulty accessing an appointment with her GP due to the receptionist blocking her request.

The parents were told they had to attend the surgery to book the appointment, collect the children and then come back to attend the appointment. But when they did, the receptionist claimed they were late and could not see their chosen GP!

The parents were very distressed and rang Action for Sick Children to ask what they could do and how to complain. This type of request is not unusual as we receive up to 8 or 10 calls per week, mostly helping parents and guiding them through the alternatives of accessing appropriate care for their sick children.

We were able to assist this family through the correct processes for obtaining this care, which led to a positive outcome. Thank you for helping us to achieve this.

[www.actionforsickchildren.org](http://www.actionforsickchildren.org)

## Bringing families together



One of the many services BAAF offers is the Adoption, Search & Reunion website [www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk](http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk). It includes information and guidance for adopted people, adoptive parents and birth relatives. The website receives over 400 visits each day and is helping many people to find relatives they have been struggling to find for years. People like Yvonne...



Yvonne, a mother dying of cancer wanted to find the son she had placed for adoption 33 years ago. However she couldn't remember the name of the adoption agency or of the mother and baby home she was in before her son's birth. But within seconds of entering the area of his birth on the website we were able to identify the name of the mother and baby home and the adoption agency. Yvonne contacted the agency who provided an intermediary service and located her son, who was pleased to hear from his birth mother. They were able to meet and spend precious time together before she died.

Other people's lives have also been changed for the better thanks to this service. ***'The ASR website is such a brilliant resource - without it I wouldn't have been able to find my twin brother who I had been separated from when he was placed for adoption 40 years ago.'***

Thank you for helping us to bring families together.

[www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk)

## "Can I have my hair cut?"



It's a simple question and it should be easy to give a child an answer but things aren't always so straightforward, as the Fostering Network discovered earlier this year.

Our foster carer members and the children they care for told us that they are missing opportunities other children enjoy and sometimes suffering because of confusion around who holds the authority to make decisions on their care.



In Northern Ireland we brought children together over nine fun days to find out more. We discovered many had missed out on overnight stays at friends' houses because of confusion over the need for police checks. Others had missed school trips, not been granted permission to have their hair cut and in one worrying case, suffered a painful wait for medical treatment pending permission from the authorities.

Children at the fun days put together a powerful short film using creative animation to express the difficulties they face.

We used the DVD to raise awareness and change current practice. Now governments in England and Northern Ireland have asked us to help simplify procedures in both countries so that every child who is fostered can have some of the opportunities that others take for granted.

We have already been able to clarify the procedure for overnight stays, so children who are fostered can more easily make and visit friends. And it's your generous support that has enabled us to do this — thank you.

[www.fostering.net](http://www.fostering.net)

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## Pepper St Ontiod Grand Opening Hat Party!

Pepper St Ontiod, located at the heart of the Isle of Dogs nominated Child Concern Consortium as their charity of choice for the proceeds raised through their 'hat party' at their recent opening launch. It was such a simple and novel idea - everyone who bought a hat to wear on the night (minimum donation £1), would receive a free drink and all proceeds from the hat 'sales' would go to Child Concern Consortium. It was fantastic fun and the 'All Hats Welcome' theme a brilliant way of getting everyone to join in and give so generously to their local children's charity. Bara and her staff worked tirelessly on the night making the hats, producing wonderful food and ensuring everyone was enjoying themselves. The evening was a huge success and helped to raise a grand total of **£68.50** for Child Concern Consortium - thank you Bara, Ontiod staff and customers for your generosity.



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## Canary Wharf Mall Fundraiser

We received an exceptionally warm welcome at our recent Canary Wharf fundraiser, with nearly everyone stopping to chat before generously placing some coins in our buckets.



Lauren watching the stall!

The Lucky Dip proved particularly popular with both adults and children alike and helped to contribute to the total reached of **£549.37!** This was a fantastic achievement and we were amazed at everyone's generosity.

Huge thanks go to our wonderful volunteers, both old and new whose sunny smiles and tireless legs helped to make the day a success. With special thanks to Giovanna and Mario from Prêt à Manger for the delicious complimentary sandwiches and also to Alison from Canary Wharf Group for presenting us with such a brilliant fundraising opportunity. But of course, the biggest thanks must go to all those busy shoppers who took the time to drop a coin in our bucket to help change children's lives for the better. Thank you everyone!

## Mayor Presents CCC with £21,500 Coty Cheque

The former Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Cllr Mohammed Abdus Salique recently presented Child Concern Consortium with a cheque for **£21,500** as one of his chosen Charities of the Year 2008/09.

The Mayor raised a total of **£43,000** for his two charities

during his term of office, through various fundraising events held throughout the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and proceeds

from his Christmas Charity Ball. Cllr Salique expressed his thanks to the Mayor's fundraising team for all their help and support throughout the year and was delighted that such a large amount had been raised during such difficult financial times.

Chris Jones, CCC Chair said: **"We were absolutely thrilled to have been chosen as Cllr Salique's charity during his year in office and were amazed at the amount raised on behalf of our small Consortium. What a fantastic effort by all concerned - thank you so much!"**

## Another 'Roaring' Success for CCC Dragonboat Race!

Our second Dragonboat Race Evening was a resounding success, with the sun shining down especially for us – unlike last year! And with everyone ready 'to go that extra mile', we had some great competition during the heats.

The total raised so far is a massive **£4,142.36**, which is our greatest fundraising total to date and far exceeded all our expectations! Special thanks go to The Warren, Jones Lang LaSalle, Saxo Bank, Millwall Fire Brigade and 4Children for their sterling efforts on the night – well done! And not forgetting Sarah and Fred, The A-Level(lers) and friends from The Ship Public House who volunteered to make up the numbers in boats where needed - what a great team effort!



The Winners – The Warren!

Thanks again to Ray Harris on camera and Lucky Dip - this time to the tune of **£115** and Paul Chaplin on raffle, which also raised **£115!** Thank you also to friends and family who kindly sponsored our efforts online. For those of you still wishing to do so, please follow the link: [www.mycharitypage.com/ccc5in1](http://www.mycharitypage.com/ccc5in1) View the pics at: [www.mycharitypage.com/ccc5in1/albums/257](http://www.mycharitypage.com/ccc5in1/albums/257). **Congratulations to the Winners - The Warren who will need to fight hard to retain their crown next year!**

## Waitrose Community Matters Anniversary Event

Child Concern Consortium has received a fantastic **£400** from the Waitrose Community Matters initiative held at our local Canary Wharf store, helping us to secure nearly half of the £1000 donation for the month of April 2009.

The scheme celebrated its first birthday on Thursday 8th October 2009 and we were delighted to be invited to join the prestigious list of guests who included the Mayor of Tower Hamlets; Cllr Ahmed Omer, local dignitaries and the distinguished actor; Sir Ian McKellen. Branch Manager Russell Cattell, Community Liaison Officer, Patsy Williams-Canning and staff worked tirelessly on the day to ensure its success and Carl Kirby, Comms & Mktg Co-ordinator created an inspiring video compilation, which gave an important insight into the work of each of the charities present.

We are hugely grateful to Waitrose for introducing this scheme in support of local charities and were delighted to have proved so popular within the local community. The money raised will really help to change children's lives for the better and we would like to thank everyone who voted for us.



## Payroll Giving Excellence celebrated at Awards Ceremony

Whitbread™



UK employers' commitment to Payroll Giving was celebrated at the National Payroll Giving Excellence Awards, held on Monday 5th October 2009. And we would like to take this opportunity of extending our warmest congratulations to Whitbread Group PLC on their Gold Quality Mark for Best Innovative Partnership.

The Whitbread Payroll Giving scheme has been in place since the 1990s and Whitbread make every effort to ensure its success by double matching employees' donations for the first contribution. This means that an initial donation of £5.00 actually generates a gift of £15.00 in the first month for Child Concern Consortium.

Whitbread employees have been loyal supporters of CCC since 1997 and we would like to say a huge thank you for their dedication and generosity over the years. **Thank you Whitbread!**



# Huge Congratulations to our two CCC Champions:

## James Millington who successfully completed the 2009 London Marathon!

Having completed the marathon in just over 4 hours and raising an amazing **£743.20** for CCC, James said: *"I knew I wanted to support a smaller charity within the local area and am happy to support such a good charity! I'm glad that I have been able to raise some extra funds for the charity - it was all totally worth it and I hope that it will allow you to do more of your excellent work - in fact, I think that doing the run was the easy part! I finished in 4:08 so I was just outside of the 4hr mark. It was a very hot day but the support from the spectators was, as ever, absolutely amazing and was sometimes the only thing which kept me going! Good luck in the future to you and the charity and I look forward to hearing more about your good work"*



## Ben Mealing who successfully completed two half marathons!

Ben completed the Bristol Half Marathon in September and the Leicester Half Marathon in October, raising a fantastic **£236.00** for CCC. On his reasons for choosing to support CCC Ben said: *"I knew that I wanted to support a children's charity of some sort and did a bit of research and really liked the sound of what you guys do. To be honest, I hadn't heard of you before and thought that it might be a good opportunity to spread your name around a few of my friends at least. I received your T-shirts in time for both runs and wore one for each to promote your excellent charity. I finished the Bristol run in 1hr 51 but came in with a time of 1hr 43 for the Leicester run so I'm really pleased to have knocked 8 whole minutes off my time!"*



We are delighted for James and Ben on their incredible achievements and were thrilled that they chose to run in aid of Child Concern Consortium. **Thank you James and Ben** for your fantastic efforts on behalf of all the children and families we support throughout the UK.

## Make your thought really count this Christmas!



The festive season is just around the corner and with the postal disruption due to continue for the foreseeable future, this could be the perfect time to send family and friends a virtual Christmas card. Each card sent raises **£1** for Child Concern Consortium but if you have more than one to send, then discounted box sets start at just **£18.91** for a box of 10. That's just **£1.89** per greeting and with a full **£10** going to CCC for each box purchased, your greeting costs you **89p!**

Please visit [www.charitygreetings.com/sign\\_up.php](http://www.charitygreetings.com/sign_up.php) and follow the instructions to put a smile on the faces of all those children needing our help this Christmas: 1 Log in or register to continue. 2 Click on 'Send' at the top of your home page and scroll down to view a price list of CCC's box sets. **Thank you.**

Get in touch – write to Child Concern Consortium, 5th Floor, City Reach, 5 Greenwich View Place, London E14 9NN  
Tel: 020 7522 6910 email: [office@childconcernconsortium.org.uk](mailto:office@childconcernconsortium.org.uk) web: [www.childconcernconsortium.org.uk](http://www.childconcernconsortium.org.uk)

Child Concern Consortium Reg. Charity No. 1103052 Company No. 4625902 Registered in England and Wales

Member Charities:	Action for Sick Children Reg. Charity. No. 296295	BAAF Adoption & Fostering Reg. Charity. No. 275689	4Children Reg. Charity. No. 288285	The Fostering Network Reg. Charity. No. 280852	Working Families Reg. Charity. No. 1099808
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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS/DONATION FORM – I would like to advise you of my new address details/ I would like to make a donation that works five times harder! Please return to Child Concern Consortium - address above

- I am enclosing a cheque for: £ ..... made payable to Child Concern Consortium.
- I have made an online donation of: £ ..... through [www.childconcernconsortium.org.uk](http://www.childconcernconsortium.org.uk)

**Please do not send cash through the post**

The Gift Aid declaration entitles us to reclaim the tax you have already paid and turns every £1 you donate into £1.25. All you have to do is tick below.

*giftaid it*

Title ..... Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Signature ..... Date .....

I am currently a:  standard rate  higher rate UK tax payer. Please treat all of my donations to Child Concern Consortium as Gift Aid until otherwise notified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

NB: You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax we claim.

- Please send me:  A home moneybox so that my loose **change** can help **change** children's lives for the better.  
 Some mobile phone/inkjet recycling envelopes to help raise up to **£30.00** per phone for CCC  
 ..... CCC water bottles at **£2.99** per bottle. Cheque for amount £..... attached.  
 A copy of CCC's Supporters' Questionnaire.