



Child Concern Consortium

Supporter's Newsletter

Your gift supports our 5 charities.

Child Concern Consortium



Five children's charities in one

Hello everyone



It's been another busy summer for CCC and once again; a time of discovering just how generous people really are.

This was reaffirmed recently during our attendance at the Spitalfields Volunteer Fair, where we spent a really enjoyable day promoting CCC and payroll giving to local companies within the area.

We were truly amazed at the amount of volunteers who attended the fair and who were more than happy to give precious time during their lunch breaks to sign up to our promotion for Payroll Giving in the Workplace.

And we are especially grateful to Savannah and Lahsen who 'went that extra mile' by assisting us in the office for over three weeks during our recruitment drive.

So a huge thanks to them for all their help and of course, to all of you for your loyal support of Child Concern Consortium.

I do hope you will all have a very happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year.

With very best wishes, Jayne

Tel: 020 7522 6910

email: office@childconcernconsortium.org.uk

website: www.childconcernconsortium.org.uk

A listening ear

4Children's Information Helpline is a key contact point offering support and advice, relied on by so many. Many of the calls and queries are linked to childcare service providers and youth settings but the Helpline is also where many parents turn to when they just don't know what to do next. Our Information Officer often taps into her own experiences as a mother of three and a school governor to provide a sensitive, tailored response to each query.

There are many excellent organisations who can offer counselling, advice and support but sometimes the hardest thing is actually getting through to the right person for that assistance. 4Children's Helpline has been successful in bridging that difficult gap for many.

Esther Ranzen CBE launched the first free national helpline for children 24 years ago. Esther is Chair of 4Children's Family Commission, which has launched a report that draws on the views of over 10,000 families in the UK. One of these is Peter, a young man living in central London who has fought a long, hard battle to become the carer of his six school aged siblings after his mother could no longer cope and left the family home. Supported by his grandparents and with agreement from the Family Court, Peter has been granted guardianship of his siblings. And Peter's motivation? *"Sticking together is what keeps you warm."*

With your support, we can help make a real difference to the lives of children and families – thank you!

www.4children.org.uk



Supporting children in hospital



Action for Sick Children constantly strives to ensure that hospital admissions for children and their families are as stress-free as possible. But only very recently we were heavily involved in supporting a family who had contacted our helpline where hospitalisation of their child was less than good practice.

On admission to the children's unit for elective surgery, Susan had not been informed of the processes she would be undergoing nor had her parents been given any information on the procedures involved, which would have allowed them to provide vital support to Susan during that time. Consequently, the family was totally unprepared for the extent of treatment involved and Susan became hysterical during the procedure. This of course served only to lengthen the whole process, causing untold distress to both Susan and her parents.

Action for Sick Children is currently investigating this matter and providing ongoing assistance to the family. We are extremely grateful for your support, which allows us to continue helping worried parents and their anxious children – thank you so much.

www.actionforsickchildren.org

Facing up to Facebook



Katie, 14, secretly contacted her birth family on the internet. She was excited at first but the contact with her birth father and her birth sister became the opposite of what she'd hoped. *'My birth sister used to email me every morning, say I was dirt and should die. My birth father said to me on the phone, 'I know everything in your life. I've got Facebook in front of me', he read out things from my mum's profile. They tried to manipulate me, making me believe things that aren't true.'* (The Guardian, 19.06.10)

The internet has changed our lives in immeasurable ways. BAAF's family finding website www.bemyparent.org.uk has found families for hundreds of children; transforming lives. However, the internet also gives huge challenges for vulnerable children.

Birth family members are contacting adopted children through Facebook, and vice versa. Previously, contact has been supported by adoption agencies and reunions usually occur only when the adoptee has reached the age of 18. With social networking, adopted teenagers are searching alone, with devastating consequences - secretly meeting with birth family or being bullied over the internet, causing huge emotional damage.

BAAF is encouraging adoptive parents to be open about their adoption with their children and producing guidance and help for post-adoption workers. We are currently producing four guides: for adoptive parents, foster carers, social workers and young people. The 'Facing up to Facebook' series offers practical advice and tackles these new issues to help protect young people. Our work is only possible thanks to your ongoing support - thank you.



www.baaf.org.uk

Achieving results



The Fostering Network young people's project has been focusing on education, asking why it is that young people in foster care do less well as a group than their peers. Natasha told the team about her experiences and the obstacles she faced:

"I was moved into independent living half way through my second year of A-levels. This had quite a negative effect on my studies as I had to decorate and sort out my flat, set myself up in my new life and attend my part-time job at the same time.

"It felt good moving into my flat. I had done everything by myself and I was proud. However, disappointment came when I didn't make the grades I needed to get my bursary.

"I am a positive person so I thought "OK, I'll just get a student loan. Surely it won't be that difficult?" Wrong! I missed out on my place at university because my social worker lost the forms she needed to sign. I had one week left so I thought that if I picked up new forms she could sign them on the day. It didn't happen. My social worker went on annual leave.

"I gave up on going to university and worked for a year. I became quite depressed as higher education had always been a priority. I was angry at what had happened, but it also made me more determined. I managed to get a place at the Open University and did my degree and master's on a part-time basis while working full time"

Our project has been supporting young people, ensuring they know what they have the right to expect and what opportunities are out there, as well as working with foster carers and fostering services to ensure young people receive the support and care they need. Thank you for helping us to provide this vital support.

www.fostering.net

Jenny's story

The Working Families helpline team supports working parents and carers in need of advice across the UK. This is a typical example of feedback from those we've helped:

Jenny belonged to a childcare voucher scheme and was feeling very unsure about her rights. During Jenny's maternity leave these vouchers continued.... but were sacrificed from her maternity pay. We advised her that deductions from Statutory Maternity Pay are not authorised (apart from tax and NI) and that in any case the SMP was itself based on the reduced salary she received (due to the voucher scheme), during the earlier part of her pregnancy.

With this information, Jenny felt confident enough to go back to HR and query the situation. Happily, HR concluded that the deductions should not have been made and that Jenny would be reimbursed.

Jenny said: "I turned to Working Families for help when I had a problem with my maternity pay. The advice was an absolute Godsend and it gave me the strength to stand up for my rights. Working Families has been a real lifeline in this situation, helping to make sure I followed the correct procedure and giving me good, sound and realistic advice"

Without the support of Working Families Jenny would not have had the confidence or the information she needed to approach her employers. Without our advice she would have been severely out of pocket for childcare vouchers which she had already paid for! With your support we can continue to help the thousands of parents and carers who contact our helpline every year. Thank you.



www.workingfamilies.org.uk

What's Happening • What's Happening • What's Happening • What's Happening •

Volunteers Week

1 – 7 June 2010

On the sunniest day of the early summer, we were very excited to join with Tower Hamlets at their Volunteering Fair held at Spitalfields Old Market in the heart of the City of London.

And we were very encouraged to find so many people from all walks of life keen to investigate volunteering opportunities with CCC. From City workers popping out of the office during their lunch hour, to gap year students, mature students, people between jobs and those looking to re-enter employment; all



were looking to use their spare time for the benefit of those less fortunate than themselves.

Child Concern Consortium relies on the kindness of people happy to give, whether that's time or funds so we can do even more for the children who really need our help across

Payroll Giving

We'll all be better off

the UK. So a huge thank you to everyone who came along to the Fair and signed up to help us out.

With so many useful contacts made on the day from so many helpful people and extra assistance from Savannah and Lahsen who worked tirelessly alongside us in the office, we were able to immediately set to work on a brand new project promoting Payroll Giving within the Workplace to our local Canary Wharf business district.

And although the day was such a success for us, we are still looking for volunteers with experience of Sales or Marketing to help us with this new project.

SO! If you would like to help change children's lives for the better and you **have** the time to **give** the time to a really good cause, please ring us on 020 7522 6910 or email office@childconcernconsortium.org.uk. And if you would like to learn more about Payroll Giving generally, please visit our website at www.childconcernconsortium.org.uk.

THANK YOU!

Eat, drink and raise money for CCC!



It's such a beautifully simple idea and it's so easy to do.

Just invite your friends round for dinner and ask them to make a small donation to Child Concern Consortium in return for a delicious meal!

All the organizing is done online, so just click on the link to start creating your very own chef's delight!

Go to www.dinner4good.com/CCC and start planning your menu now!

Whether you're an expert in the kitchen or not – you still get the chance to spend a lovely evening with your friends.

Happy Dining!



Child Concern Consortium was delighted to have been voted by ploink! supporters as Charity of the Month for September.

And we were especially grateful to ploink! for the extra funds received through their generous matched funding initiative - **thank you so much ploink!**

If you haven't heard of ploink! yet, just follow the steps below to start 'ploinking' for Child Concern Consortium.

Here's how it works:

1. Visit www.ploink.co.uk
2. Click on the donor sign up box.
3. Enter your email address, password and name to register.
4. Choose CCC from the choice of charities listed.

And that's it! You can now start 'ploinking' for CCC by dragging and dropping your choice of coins into your very own piggy bank.

You can ploink as little or as much as you like; when you like and once you've ploinked at least 99p, you can donate your gift to CCC via your credit, debit or maestro card.

So please place a penny in the piggy for Child Concern Consortium and watch him jump for joy and 'oink' his thanks when you drop the penny in his back!

Thank you so much.

Raise money for charity
Enjoy dinner with friends

The new and easy way to raise money for your favourite charity by having friends to dinner

Don't forget you can also find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter





Bugs Bunny and Tinkerbell complete the Dodentocht 'Death March' for CCC

Let's hear a huge cheer for **Caroline Marston** and **Wayne Dennis** aka Tinkerbell and Bugs Bunny, who have certainly earned a place in the CCC fundraisers' Hall of Fame. Not only did they complete one of the most grueling challenges we've come across, but they also managed it in fancy dress.



19hrs 11mins, having cheered competitors and spectators along the way with their fancy dress and even getting in to the local press.

Caroline and Wayne chose to support CCC because they both work with young children and firmly believe in the importance of our work supporting vulnerable children and their families throughout the UK. We're so grateful that they were happy to go to such lengths on our behalf, raising over **£300** so far for Child Concern Consortium.

We were slightly worried when we first heard about their determination to compete in the Dodentocht 'Death March'; held in Belgium but were relieved the march is 'only' a 100km (62 mile) walk, which competitors must complete within 24 hours!!! Caroline and Wayne (or rather Tinkerbell and Bugs Bunny) made it across the finish line in

We sincerely hope, "that's NOT all folks" for Bugs Bunny and Tinkerbell and trust they'll be enjoying similar challenges for a long time to come!

Annual Canary Wharf Mall Collection

This year we were once again invited to hold our annual charity collection at the Shopping Mall in Canary Wharf. This time we took along some fun in the form of a Lucky Dip and Mystery Raffle, which included a fantastic first prize of an amazing Gok Wan Pamper Kit. And the Lucky Dip proved just as popular with children and Wharfers alike who managed to stop by 'for a 'dip' during their busy lunch hour!



The lovely Yvette shaking her bucket for CCC!

It just goes to show that there's a child looking for fun in all of us – and all the more reason we need to get out there raising money for the children who so desperately need our help. Thank you once again to Canary Wharf for hosting us, **Giovanna from Prêt a Manger**, **Justina from Caffé Nero** and especially to our tireless and smiley volunteers **Yvette** and **Jonathan**. We really appreciate the time you give up to help us make a difference!

Get in touch – write to Child Concern Consortium, 5th Floor, City Reach, 5 Greenwich View Place, London E14 9NN
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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

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

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.