

Child Concern Consortium Supporters' Newsletter

Your gift supports our 5 charities.



Hello everyone,



I know that for some of you this will be the first issue of the newsletter that you've received, having kindly agreed to place one of our moneyboxes into your homes.

Regular donations such as these are so important to us

and make such a difference to the lives of the children and families we support. And I'm sure you'll all be pleased to hear that we've already raised £3,600 in this way since first launching the scheme early last year, so thank you very much.

We are still continuing to receive lots of mobile phones for recycling, which has proved another popular way of supporting the Consortium and also helping the environment along the way, so a big thank you to all of you who have already donated your phones.

We always enjoy receiving your comments and suggestions. And if there is anything more you would like to know about the work of the Consortium or if any of you are interested in obtaining a moneybox or mobile phone recycling envelopes, please do contact us.

Thank you all once again for your continuing support.

Tel:
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Helping Children to thrive



Children and young people in foster care often struggle to perform as well as others in their age group. Exam results are frequently not as good as their classmates; with only 11 per cent of those leaving care in 2003 achieving five GCSEs or above. Last year, thanks to your continuing support, we were able to work even harder to help children in foster care achieve their full potential.

As a result:

- 4,500 more foster children now have fresh opportunities for learning and developing new skills.
- The Fostering Network has launched Fostering Achievement, which provides advice and funding to improve the education of children in care.



By providing access to computers and other equipment and encouraging children to follow extra-curricular pursuits that others may take for granted, Fostering Achievement will help improve children's confidence and self-esteem, as well as their academic results.

The scheme recognises that foster carers hold the key to helping fostered children reach their full potential. It ensures they have the skills needed to meet the challenges they face in their demanding roles of caring for vulnerable children.

As one girl told us: *"Being part of a supportive and caring foster family from the age of 9 has undoubtedly been the most significant factor in my life...I would never have taken my GCSEs, let alone gone on to do six years at University!"*

www.fostering.net

Helping children in hospital



With your continued support, Action for Sick Children will be working even harder in 2007 to help make a child's stay in hospital a more pleasant experience; children like Paul:

Paul's mother was advised by his hospital that it was a legal requirement for anyone over sixteen to stay in an adult ward. As Paul was a frequent visitor to the hospital whilst awaiting a kidney transplant, he felt happiest in the children's ward where he had previously stayed and did not want to be moved to an adult environment.

Action for Sick Children was able to reassure Paul's mother that the hospital was not legally entitled to enforce such a move, advising her that hospitals should take the needs of the individual child into account over such decisions. With our support, she was able to liaise with the hospital to ensure that Paul stayed where he felt most comfortable. Thank you for making it possible for us to help children like Paul.

www.actionforsickchildren.org



Rewarding dedicated children's workers

Thousands of hard working childcarers, childcare teams, youth workers and extended school teams provide invaluable support to children, young people and families every day across the country. They deserve to be rewarded for what they do and every year a national awards scheme run by 4Children does just that!

The Children's Stars Awards celebrate the most dedicated, inspiring and deserving children's workers in the country – from childminders and nursery workers to playworkers, from promising newcomers to outstanding teams. The search for this year's Stars will culminate in an awards dinner in June where the winners will be announced and honoured for their achievements.

As Cherie Booth QC, Vice President of 4Children, says:

"Having excellent support for children in the early years and high quality reliable childcare is essential for all children and parents.

4Children's Children's Stars Awards show how crucial this work is and how valuable children's workers are."

www.4Children.org.uk



Alan Payne, one of the 2006 winners celebrates his award

Changing lives for good



Many children in public care have suffered abuse or neglect and all are in desperate need of stability. Yet many may never find a 'forever family' because of a lack of adoptive parents. Children will often move from one foster family to another because of a huge shortfall in foster carers across the UK.

Samantha Black, 22 from Kent experienced more than 20 moves during 13 years in care and attended over 10 schools. She says:

"You don't get the chance to be a normal child if you're constantly moving around. It becomes harder and harder to make friends and in the end you don't see the point because you know you'll be moving on again soon.

My behaviour got worse and worse and then placements broke down more easily. I wish I'd had one family who could have helped me through my problems - it would have made all the difference."

There is an overwhelming need to reduce the number of moves these children experience. More placements must be found where children will not need to move again if they are unable to return safely home.

With your support, BAAF will continue to help improve the lives of children like Samantha. Thank you.

www.baaf.org.uk

Demand soars for helpline service

working families



It's just a year since we heard that the Maternity Alliance helpline for new and expectant mums had closed down. Calls to our free helpline trebled immediately and, despite heroic efforts on the part of our advisers, we know that 3000 callers a year are unable to get through to us. More than half of callers have to make two or more calls before they reach us –

often in some distress because of a family emergency.

We continue to hear stories of people demoted on return from maternity leave, denied health and safety risk assessments during pregnancy, being disciplined for taking time off to care for sick children and struggling to agree the flexible working arrangements they need. We are able to help them by telling them about their rights during pregnancy, time off in emergencies and about tax credits and benefits, as well as offering support to negotiate with their employers.

Working Families launched a new email and text advice service last autumn. Particularly aimed at dads, who research shows prefer more impersonal sources of information, it allows parents to email or text questions to our helpline team. In the spring, we will be extending our service to carers for adults, as they also gain the right to request flexible working.

With your support, we will continue to help the many parents and carers who are struggling to care for their families, at the same time as earning the income they need. Thank you so much.

www.workingfamilies.org.uk

What's happening • What's happening • What's happening • What's happening

Mobile Phone Recycling

A recent newspaper report has estimated that 25% of 7-10 year olds now own their own mobile phone!

It's frightening how fast technology is moving and the impact it may have on the world around us. Even more reason then for donating your unwanted phones to Child Concern Consortium!



If you would like us to send you a moneybox or provide some mobile phone envelopes, please contact us via the details on the back of this newsletter and we will be more than happy to send them out to you.

Home Moneybox Campaign



The moneybox campaign is proving very popular and it's not too late for you to start collecting. Here are some ideas to start you off by using it as a:

- **Washing Well** – place it next to the washing machine to collect the loose change from pockets when you are doing the laundry!
- **Fine Box** – as a forfeit for those things you should do but never get around to!
- **Giving up Box** – for doing something you shouldn't!

Remember, your change can help change children's lives for the better.

What's happening • What's happening • What's happening • What's happening

Payroll Giving - It Pays to Give

Payroll Giving is a great way for you to demonstrate commitment to the good causes that you care about. For CCC, payroll donations provide an important and reliable income stream, which allows us to plan ahead and budget for the future.

Payroll Giving has become increasingly popular in recent years, but there is still room for improvement and you can do your bit to help:

As an employer – Encourage other employers you know to:

Introduce a Payroll Giving Scheme within their companies. Quick and easy to set up and administer, it can also aid retention and recruitment of staff and enable them to generate a much needed income stream to charities.

As an employee – Explain to your colleagues that:

Payroll Giving is an easy way for them to give to their favourite charities straight from their salaries, benefiting them with immediate tax relief of up to £4 for every £10 donated. The donations are taken from their gross salary, which reduces the amount of income tax that is deducted. All they need to do is fill out one simple form, stating how much they would like to give. The system is easy to opt in and out of, giving them the donor full control over their gifts.

Payroll Giving

We'll all be better off



Payroll Giving Grants Update

Sadly, the SME Payroll Giving Grants scheme came to an end on 31 December 2006. The extra revenue from government was a huge boost for charities and really made a difference to the smaller ones like ourselves.

However, during the year 2005/6 the increase in the number of employers signing up to payroll giving was 110% higher than the preceding year. This was as a direct result of the number of SMEs setting up schemes since the introduction of the Programme in January 2005.

With the increase in numbers of smaller organisations joining the scheme, we can only hope that the government will introduce a new incentive to encourage employers to make it easier for everyone to give to their favourite charity through their payroll.

What's happening • What's happening • What's happening • What's happening

Child Concern Consortium

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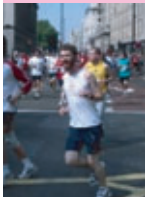
CANARY WHARF COLLECTION



We at Child Concern Consortium are lucky enough to be based within the Canary Wharf area of London and were recently given the opportunity of holding a street collection there. It was hard work but a really fun day with a very positive response from the public, resulting in a total of £210 collected for all the children and families we support.

We also managed to help raise our profile as a local children's charity within both the business sector and local community so it was a day very well spent! **We will be holding another collection in Canary Wharf, this time at the Jubilee Line Station on Wednesday 23rd May so if you are in the area, do come along and say hello.**

SUNDAY 22 APRIL 2007 THE FLORA LONDON MARATHON



If you're looking for a fun day out, why not come along to the Isle of Dogs to support the London Marathon. Top athletes, celebrities and charity fun-runners will be pounding the route together, with the sounds of music and cheering crowds helping them along their way.

More than half a million spectators will watch the race on the day, so make sure you arrive early if you're looking for a great family day out.


We'll be there cheering on friends and family and of course, shaking our buckets for Child Concern Consortium. So if you're there and see us in our striking CCCT-shirts, do come along and drop in a coin or two!

CLICK TO HELP CCC



If you are a regular user of the internet as so many of us are now, we've dreamt up another easy way for you to support us without it costing you or us a penny!

Everyclick.com is a search engine that gives half of the revenue it generates to charity. Last year search engines raised nearly £3.2 billion so just imagine how much we could benefit if you, your friends and family used everyclick each and every time you surfed the net.

All you have to do is visit www.everyclick.com, enter Child Concern Consortium in the text box and click on the  symbol. Once our details appear, choose the house symbol to save us as your home page and away you go - raising money without spending money - what better way could there be?

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 website: 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

DONATION FORM - 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

Please debit my MasterCard Visa CAF Card

Card number _____

Expiry Date _____

Security Number _____

Signature of cardholder _____

Date _____

Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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The Gift Aid declaration entitles us to reclaim the tax you have already paid and turns every £1 you donate into £1.28. All you have to do is tick below.

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

Signature _____

Today's date _____

Please send me: A home moneybox so that my loose change can help change children's lives for the better.

Some mobile phone recycling envelopes to help raise a minimum of £5.00 per phone for CCC.