

Housing Young People. Changing Lives.

Preventing disadvantaged children and young people being homeless.
Providing them with life's building blocks and resources, enabling them to become
happy, confident and successful adults

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN FIRST (YPACF) NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Note from the CEO

I hope our July newsletter finds you safe and well. The last few months have certainly been a challenge for us all. YPACF have continued with all our services to support our young people, in our houses and via our Outreach service, during Covid 19. This has been essential as our young people have needed us more than ever.

We have welcomed two new staff, Rachel Wallace Support Manager and Lauren Kingham Support Worker. Rachel and Lauren have been working closely with our young people enabling them to cope with the restrictions of Covid, while still providing opportunities to realise their hopes and dreams.

Our plans for the future are still as exciting and we are currently looking for our third house, so we can support up to 5 more young people aged 16 – 25. This would not have been possible without the continuous support of our community fundraisers, grant and trust givers and local businesses. I would especially like to give personal thanks to our volunteers who have done so much for our young people during the lockdown. We really couldn't have done it without you.

Enjoy this newsletter. It will bring you up to date with our progress, plans and positivity!

Kind regards, as always.
Tracy Underwood, CEO.

Our Young People

Together, our staff and young people have managed the extra anxieties that Covid 19 brought by looking after each other and keeping busy.



We are all green fingered now as the greenhouse was put to good use. Our new raised beds are in abundance with vegetables galore.



Even the old shed has been painted!



Many of our young people are very creative and certainly teach the staff a thing or two. Beautiful pieces have been cross-stitched, pictures designed and painted, and dry clay experimented with.



As well as cooking favourite dishes we have been experimenting with new vegan recipes with great results. Nutrition and healthy living are an important part of our support which includes us all eating together.

We can't forget the Rebecca House Salted Caramel Brownies – they are an all-time favourite!



Recently we asked our Young People for feedback on the support we provide. With their permission, I would like to share a response....

"Coming from an abusive household and suffering from mental health issues, I brought a lot of emotional baggage with me when I first moved in here. My autism didn't make things any easier. The team has given me a second chance to get my life together and has really helped me work through a lot of my problems.

I am eating better; I wake up in the morning and I am losing weight. I can't even fathom where I would be without them. They have given me structure, confidence and are actively helping me with areas of life I find difficult. They have given me the support I have needed in years."

Our New Therapists

Meet our three new therapists pet therapists! Lady, Sasha and Ludo. In times of stress, anxiety and upset, these three have been an invaluable source of comfort for our young people (and staff). They are now a very treasured part of our support team and help with our daily exercise regime.



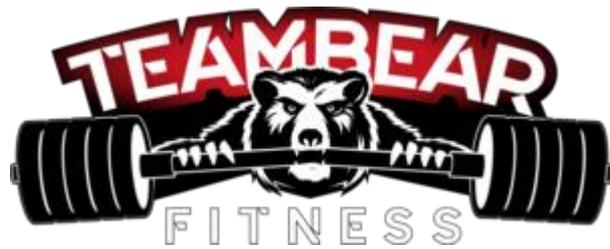
Sasha snoozing at Rebecca House (below) and Ludo having a cuddle with one of our young people (right)



10th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign

2020 is YPACF's 10th anniversary since the opening of Cornerstone, our first house. We had so many plans to celebrate this with you all, including an Autumn Ball. Unfortunately, these events will have to wait until safer times. However, we did all come together (virtually) for an extremely successful 10th Anniversary fundraising campaign. Our target was to raise £10,000 by completing 10 activities over 10 days. The response to this campaign was amazing with 18 fundraising teams taking part. In total we raised a whopping £17,055, including gift aid. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of so many of our loyal and new supporters. Special thanks to the following for making this happen.

1. Tim & Joanie Dyson
2. Peter Harris
3. The Salmon Family
4. Team Harley Davidson
5. Team Fisher
6. Team Bear Fitness
7. Petra, Lauren and Justin
8. Team Lawrence
9. Zoe Lepetit
10. Woolhampton Roman Catholic Parish
11. East Woodhay Society
12. KPMG
13. Anna Savage
14. Tucker family
15. Patsy Stone
16. Team Wallace
17. Team Underwood
18. Foundation IT (FIT)



... and some much appreciated evidence of Team activities.....



Third House Plans

I am delighted to let you know that even after the challenges of the last three months, we are still on track for acquiring our third house. This has only been made possible due to Covid crisis grants and the generosity of those who, as we do, know how much this third house is needed by our local 16-25 year care leavers and homeless. Thank you so much to:

1. Greenham Trust Coronavirus Emergency Funding
 2. Lottery Grant (Covid 19)
 3. Thatcham Parochial Charities
 4. Berkshire Masons
 5. Douai Abbey Parish
 6. BNI Newbury
 7. SecurEnvoy
 8. Tax Assist Accountants, Newbury
 9. Rotary Club
 10. Miss Lawrence Trust
 11. Hungerford Town Council
 12. Thatcham Town Council
 13. Baxter Healthcare
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Finally

I wish to let you know of the absolute dedication, professionalism and sheer 'blood, sweat and tears' the YPACF staff have shown over the last three months. The relationships they have with all our young people is one that is caring and nurturing and based completely on trust. The Trustees and Founding members thank all the staff and volunteers for their dedication to the charity and their 'above and beyond' during such a difficult few months.

Stay in Touch

If you would like to get in touch at any time please email at info@ypacf.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit the news section on our website: <https://www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk/>

There are also a number of ways you can donate to help us with our work:



Donating via The Good Exchange means your donation may be doubled and goes to a specific project we're currently running. www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk

[Virgin Money Giving](#) See our website for the link. Please consider regular giving, £5 a month is a wonderful gift each month.

[Amazon Wishlist](#). If you'd prefer to donate goods to us you can use our Amazon Wishlist to see the items we're most in need of for our Young People. See our website for the link.

Sign up to Amazon Smile and choose us as your charity. Amazon will then contribute a small amount to us when you purchase your goodies. Always remember to go through <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Keep well and stay safe.