

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN FIRST

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2021



Young People
and Children First

NOTE FROM THE CEO

I'm delighted to report we are all well at YPACF and busier than ever. The last six months have flown by as we have continued to provide daily, face to face support to our young residents.

We are so proud of the youngsters that are with us. 57% are currently in full time employment and have continued to work either remotely or as key workers in packaging, manufacturing and retail. 14% are in full time education, supported by us to learn from home. We thank our supporters who have helped us with technical advice and equipment to make this possible.

Our staff team continues to grow with an additional Support Worker, Sarah Calvert and a new administrator, Lynne Hookway. We also welcome trustees, Karen Ferris (HR Consultant) and Steve Perkins (Accountant). I couldn't ask for a more dedicated and hardworking team.

Please enjoy the charity updates below, stay safe, and we hope to see you soon, fingers crossed.

Kind regards, as always

Tracy Underwood, CEO

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE KEEPING BUSY

Over the summer, James and Lewis from FINK Street Food came to one of our gardens for an exciting cooking experience. Our youngsters learnt to cook some wonderful nutritious dishes together. FINK uses food and cooking to encourage people to make positive steps to improve their mental health. It was delicious!

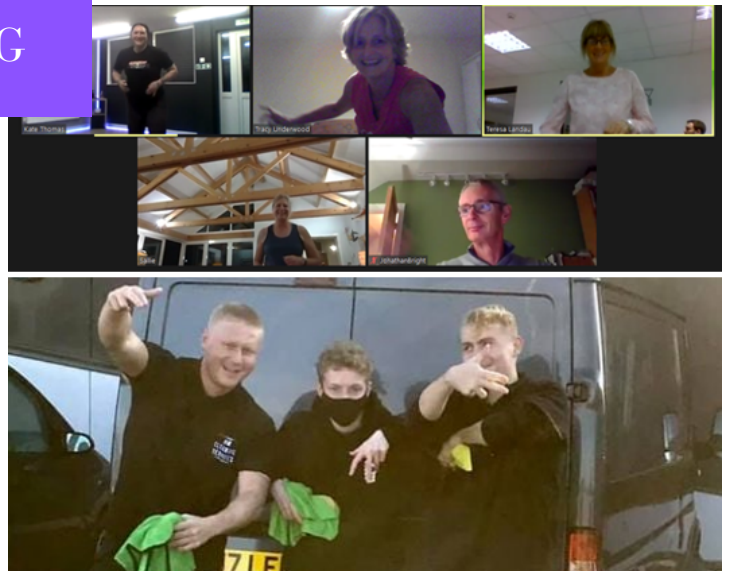


As the summer hit and restrictions were lifted, our support workers and young people had a lovely couple of days glamping in Devon. Cooking over the firepit, playing cards into the night, walking along the beach, and of course, fish and chips, all made for a fun time together. This was made possible by a grant from the National Lottery and the kindness and generosity of Claire Ranyard of The Red House Farm, Devon. These special times together are so important for our young people and staff. Trust is built and memories made, which are then pulled on when times become hard.

AUTUMN FUNDRAISING

Centrepoint's annual 'Sleep Out' took place this year as a 'Stay Up' to keep within Covid guidelines. We joined J Finance in staying up all night. Night activities included an 80s keep fit session, a zoom on 'being homeless' and midnight snacks baked by one of our residents.

Did we see you at our charity car wash at Greenham Business Park in Oct? HW Services and staff washed over 40 cars. Next one is in April. See you there.



CHRISTMAS

December was a mad time for the Charity. Our staff, volunteers and young people were busy making wonderful Christmas cakes and gifts to sell and we were part of Greenham Trusts Double Match Day. In 24 hours we had to raise £5,000 which Greenham Trust would Double Match to become £15,000. We were generously supported by so many people and we raised just over £21,000! We were thrilled.

Christmas was especially hard for our young people, as it was for everyone this year. Not being able to spend it with their loved ones certainly took its toll. A lovely Christmas dinner supplied by Waitrose Newbury, and lots of pressies certainly helped raise spirits. Thank you to all the businesses, individuals and volunteers who gave so much this Christmas.

CHARITY GROWTH UPDATE

We are so close to acquiring our third house so we can support more young people who need us. Our third house is being acquired by experienced property investors who have been supporters of our charity for many years. They have viewed over 15 properties and continue to search for the right property for the charity. We have been blessed with donations of furniture and goodies from Ikea Reading and supporters, so are ready to go once we have the house! I look forward to sharing more news on this soon.

The need for our supported housing continues to grow and our referrals reflect this. We certainly agree with the British Association of Social Workers who expect a "tsunami of needs" as the UK recovers from the pandemic. With the opening of a third house and then looking for a fourth, our charity will do everything in its power to meet the demand for young people in need in West Berkshire and surrounding areas.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS



Our corporate supporters and associations are so important to the charity. Whether holding events, donating goods and services or providing much needed funds, we thank and appreciate each and everyone one of them.

YPACF looks forward to working with our supporters in 2021. We hope to be running with them at the ASICS 10k in London, having a drink together at our Autumn Ball, and much, much more.

STAY IN TOUCH

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

To keep up to date on all the goings on at the charity, follow us on Facebook and Instagram where you will find lots of photos and fun activities.

Please visit our new website, recently redesigned by the fabulous Karen Chapple at JCK Marketing.

<https://www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk>. Our website will also give details of any job vacancies, volunteering opportunities and how to donate.

We hope to see you soon. Take care and be safe.

With kind regards from us all at YPACF.

