

Familyfocus

Newsletter January 2012



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Please Visit Our Brand New Shiny Website

We are excited to unveil our new website. It's filled with information to keep you updated on what's going on. We now have a Blog where we will be providing you with invaluable information, informed opinions, and humorous articles.

3... 2... 1... Let's go!



When we met Sonia she was like a skeleton. She was sleeping in a studio with two emotionally disturbed children and was on the verge of a breakdown.

We help people like Sonia put their broken lives back together, and equip them to face the future.

Please support us: **Every Second Counts...**

We are launching a campaign to raise awareness of what WBAF does. The aim of the campaign is also to increase our list of supporters and raise funds to enable our Families Support Services to continue running. The theme of the campaign is about how time can play a negative effect in the lives of those going through problems. To highlight this fact, each week we shall be writing a stimulating article on *Time*, linking it in with the new campaign: *Every Second Counts*.

YOU CAN HELP THIS CAMPAIGN TO BE A SUCCESS!

After you read the article that launches the campaign on our blog hit the **Facebook 'Like' Button**. This will place the article on your Facebook page where your visitors can read it and hopefully support us.

www.befriendfamily.co.uk/every-second-counts/

The Christmas Spirit



Specially designed WBAF Christmas cards given out to various Westminster churches and residents.



The *Every Second Counts...* text fundraising campaign will be running for at least a year and will be launched in stages:

Stage 1

Distribution of Christmas cards to selected churches around Westminster (completed)

Stage 2

Distribution of Christmas cards to selected residential addresses in Westminster (completed)

Stage 3

Weekly informative and witty articles written on the WBAF Blog, about *TIME*, to be launched the 1st week in January. So, 52 weeks of stimulating articles to look out for!

Stage 4

Various sponsored events and fundraising events throughout the year by WBAF friends and supporters.

Stage 5

Dec 2012: Distribution of Christmas cards to selected churches and residents around Westminster.

PLEASE TAKE PART

You are invited to take part in this campaign. **Please submit your fundraising ideas to us.** Let's hit the ground running and have fun! Its success is in your hands.

WBAF Christmas Party!



WBAF likes to get into the spirit of Christmas and this year was no exception as we laid down our Christmas challenge to local businesses.

We were delighted when a team of employees from *Experian* were the first to take on the Christmas Challenge. The *Experian* team offered to organise the party from scratch. They clearly meant business. They organised everything from hiring the venue, to catering, baking cakes and children's party games. Second up were employees from *British Land*. They set themselves a target of purchasing around 80 presents for children. The *British Land* team far exceeded this and on the day we had a whopping 190 presents for all the children at the party, with some left over for those that couldn't make it. Last, but not least, *John Lewis* stepped in with vouchers to purchase food and gifts – anything that we needed to make up numbers on the day.

The children were wowed by the magical party room that the team created at the fantastic *SW1 Gallery*. Special thanks go to *Land Securities* for generously donating the use of the gallery for the party. It was wonderful to see *Experian's* Santa handing out presents to the children, and parents tucking into the feast laid on by the team.

It was a fantastic day of team spirit, generosity and it goes to show that local businesses do care and that Westminster has a strong community spirit. The staff and volunteer team enjoyed working with the volunteer teams from *British Land*, *Land Security* and *John Lewis* and the *Volunteer Centre* who introduced us to these teams.



Our New Team

We are delighted to welcome 8 social work students to our staff and volunteer team:

Catherine, Jessica, Gina, Gill, Gemma, Halley, Sheanne and Shah.

Seven of the students are on work placements for 7 months and they are currently providing key worker support to families and managing our three family projects, the Drop-In Service and our Coffee mornings. The students bring with them knowledge of social work practice and theories and they are applying these in their work and helping us to improve our services. We are also very lucky to have on our team Anna James, a qualified social worker, who is volunteering with us and providing key worker support to families with complex needs.

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

2011 was filled with challenges, specifically setting various challenges to the business, education and community sectors to channel resources to children and families in the community. Students from the *Union Kite Society* have risen to the challenge and they will be making workshop and kite making sessions for our young people in the February half term.



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