Volunteer news and views

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Our editorial board

Six volunteers are on our editorial board, helping to shape the content of your magazine. For this issue, Helen Towns, Vice Chair of the Appeals Advisory Board (the Board which represents our community fundraising groups), recommended that we report on our new retail superstore in Greater Manchester (see opposite) and explain the history of the Marsh Trust Awards (see page 7).

The volunteering legacy of London 2012

During the Olympic and Paralympic closing ceremonies, the loudest cheers were reserved for the volunteers. People were so admiring of the 70,000 Games Makers who gave their free time to help run the Games, making the whole event the incredible success it was. Having attended the hockey at the Olympic Park, I experienced first-hand their warm welcome and high fives.

Now we must keep the momentum for volunteering going. Just imagine if we could capture the enthusiasm of the Olympic and Paralympic volunteers and use it to benefit the UK’s poorest communities.

As our volunteers, you are already changing the lives of the UK’s most vulnerable children. We hope you will join us in promoting Make a Difference Day 2012 on 27 October to encourage more people to volunteer for us. Let’s work together to promote the volunteering legacy of the Games.

Anne Marie Carrie, Chief Executive

Our new fundraising appeal aims to raise an additional £1.5 million to expand the reach of our services which tackle child sexual exploitation. We are also campaigning across the UK to politicians and the police to raise their awareness of the issue and improve their responses.

Get involved by watching and sharing our new appeal video and joining us in urging your local police force to do all they can to protect children from this horrific abuse.

Visit www.barnardos.org.uk/cutthemfreeappeal

Volunteer Managers Day

Mark a date in your diary for International Volunteer Managers Day on Monday 5 November. The day recognises all those responsible for the co-ordination, support and recruitment of the world’s volunteers.

Visit www.volunteermanagersday.org and make sure your managers get the recognition they deserve.

Help children who are sexually exploited

Our first fashion superstore

Our Celebrity Ambassador Nicola Roberts opened our first retail park superstore in Denton, Greater Manchester. The 6,000 square foot store stocks women’s, men’s and children’s fashion as well as quality homeware, cards and gift wrap.

Helen Towns, Vice Chair of the Appeals Advisory Board and a member of this magazine’s volunteer editorial board, said: ‘I went to look at the store and was very impressed. It’s all clothing and cards and done up very nicely with plenty of space for buggies and wheelchairs.’
Meet the Marsh Trust Award winners

Every year the amazing contribution volunteers make to our work is recognised by the Marsh Trust Awards. Here are the stories of the four UK award winners for this year.

Sarah Butters – Volunteer of the Year
Sarah is a young mother who started out as a shy service user, attending a support group at Newport Young Families in Wales.

Now Sarah is a valuable member of the team, playing a key role at the service and speaking publicly about her story to inspire others to achieve their dreams.

Stephanie Pike, Senior Practitioner at the service, nominated Sarah for the award. She explained that Sarah needed support at first to build her confidence to socialise with other young parents. But her self-esteem soared as she took part in groups and activities.

Sarah used to stay behind after the group to talk to staff about her future goals. The idea of volunteering came up during these discussions.

‘She showed an interest in giving something back to Barnardo’s,’ Stephanie says. Sarah began volunteering for the service in August 2011.

Now she helps run two groups that offer activities for young families and takes part in events and training.

‘Sarah's commitment to Barnardo's and to her professional role has been exceptional,’ Stephanie says. ‘She has also represented Barnardo's at conferences and shared her story with others, to promote the message that despite being a young parent you can still achieve your dreams.’

Nyla Webbe – Young Volunteer of the Year
Nyla is a single parent of two children who also volunteers at Newport Young Families in Wales.

She was referred to the service originally as a service user by Newport Women's Aid after she had suffered domestic abuse.

Nyla's support worker soon noticed that she was a talented person who could represent Barnardo’s at a national level alongside children’s services managers at conferences, and in tendering to run new services.

This experience helped Nyla gain confidence and realise she could achieve many things, despite her circumstances.

‘Nyla decided to make some changes in her life and turn the negatives into positives,’ says Senior Practitioner Stephanie Pike, who nominated Nyla for the award.

She started volunteering, first in her local community and then for us and found she really enjoyed working with young people. We supported her to apply to university, where she is now studying for a degree in youth and community education.

Nyla volunteers for Newport Young Families for two-and-a-half days a week, as part of her student placement. She runs a dance class for parents called Baby Bounce, designing the sessions to meet the families’ needs.

‘Her commitment to make a difference to the lives of our service users has been outstanding,’ Stephanie says. ‘Nyla makes a constant effort to ensure she engages families with fun activities that promote wellbeing, exercise, confidence and learning. Nyla is very passionate about her work. Her creative input has had a massive impact on the service we provide. She makes everyone’s day with her positive attitude.’
All were presented with their certificates and prizes at our Annual General Meeting on 16 October.

See photos of Sarah, Nyla and Derek receiving their awards

**Marsh Trust Award regional winners**

- **London** – Muriel Piednoe, independent visitor to a child in care at our Waltham Forest Children’s Rights Service
- **Midlands** – Margaret Christodoulou, independent visitor at our Children’s Rights Service
- **North East** – Tamla Simpson, Blyth Valley Children’s Centre
- **North West** – Bridget Clare, independent visitor for children in care
- **Northern Ireland** – the volunteers at our Newry Family Resource Centre
- **Scotland** – John Haggerty and Steven McIntyre, volunteer drivers at our East Region Disability Services
- **South East** – Hayley Le Lerre who supports children with learning disabilities at Sunrise Children’s Centre
- **South West** – David Mayhew, an artist running therapeutic art groups for children affected by domestic abuse
- **Wales/Cymru** – Sarah Butters, Newport Young Families (see page 4)
- **Yorkshire** – Judith Roberts, an administration volunteer at our Priory Family Centre.

**Derek Reid – The Marsh Trust Award for Innovation and Dedication**

Derek Reid provides fundraising and administration support for our Corporate Partnerships team in the Midlands region. He was nominated by Corporate Relationships Manager Adam Hanrahan.

Derek takes the lead for managing and developing local relationships with corporate partners such as BAM UK, Royal Mail Group and the Royal Bank of Scotland. The team has received emails thanking them for Derek’s excellent client care.

‘Such is our confidence in Derek’s ability and professionalism that we entrust him with a similar level of responsibility expected of staff members. The impact of Derek’s support has been huge,’ Adam says.

Branch Manager Annie Wood nominated Pat Jackson, who has volunteered at our Morley store in Yorkshire since it opened in 2010. She says the team would describe Pat as: ‘loyal, enthusiastic, has a passion for Barnardo’s and makes great tea’

Pat takes a special interest in the children’s department. She makes sure the very best stock is processed for the shop floor, the department is always full and displays are colourful and fun. Sales there have dramatically increased since she began looking after it.

Annie says: ‘Pat brightens up our day with her infectious laugh and no job is too much trouble.

‘It can be very hard to find a volunteer who has a great rapport with customers and other volunteers, who is a good all-rounder who wants to use their spare time for a good cause. Pat ticks all the boxes.’

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**Congratulations to our winners!**

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**Fact file:**

The Marsh Trust Awards

The trust was founded by financier Brian Marsh OBE in 1981. It gives grants and awards to charities in many fields, including conservation, education and training and social welfare.

The trust has worked with us for over a decade, awarding volunteers who show an exceptional level of support and commitment.

Brian Marsh says: ‘We run about 60 award programmes. If we are going to run an award programme for work with children, it seems to me that Barnardo’s is the obvious partner of choice.’

Trustee Lorraine Ryan, who sits on the judging panel adds: ‘It never fails to amaze me as to the level of dedication that volunteers show to Barnardo’s. Every year I am touched by their wonderful stories of dedication and triumph in the face of adversity. Choosing a winner for each category is always difficult.’
Celebrate Make a Difference Day

27 October 2012

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who help make a difference to the thousands of children, young people and families we work with every year. Here's how a few of you help make a difference.

Paul Corey
Retail volunteer

“ ”

Angela Needham
Community Fundraising Volunteer

“ ”

Gareth Prati
Retail volunteer

“ ”

Anam Zehra
Children’s services volunteer

“ ”

Make a difference too, with Barnardo’s. Visit www.barnardos.org.uk/volunteering for our current opportunities.
Congratulations to our Bristol Barnardo’s Helper Group (BHG) for organising a glamorous summer ball. Securing a pair of signed running shoes from Usain Bolt to auction helped raise a grand total of £4,200.

The West End Southampton BHG held a Jubilee Ploughman’s Lunch on 10 August which raised £220 for our work.

Charlotte Horner, who volunteers at our Caban Bach Family Centre in Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, was presented with an outstanding contribution certificate by Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas AM in July. The centre offers families the chance to buy fruit and vegetables at a low price and for the past two years Charlotte has volunteered to help pack the orders.