

RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW MINI BUS

MONEY RAISED SO FAR **£10,000**



is a stand alone, not for profit charity and, as such, relies heavily on fund-raising to help to provide the facilities and activities that our young people deserve. Therefore, we are very grateful when we receive spontaneous donations towards our costs, especially when these are prompted by a visit to the centre, or a browse on our website, or indeed, simply by word of mouth!

Heartfelt thanks go to Mr and Mrs Murgatroyd from North Yorkshire, along with Barry and Sylvia Wright from Halifax, who have each sent donations. Also to the ladies of St Alban's Church and Southowram Church who each sent us £60.00, raised on their Ladies Mornings. Hebble Insurance held a dress down day and nominated us as their charity for any monies raised. Many thanks go to their staff.

We have also benefitted from a grant of £1,000 from the Greggs NE Regional Charity. This funding is strictly for catering equipment only and was spent on buying a more efficient freezer for the kitchen.

And we've just been chosen as the nominated local charity for the Lent Project by the Wakefield Diocese of The Church Of England, involving every parish in West Yorkshire!

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF THE ABOVE

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE...?

If you do, you could raise funds for The Next Step Trust as you shop! By logging on to easyfundraising.com and registering as a supporter of The Next Step Trust (which is really easy and straightforward to do), every time you shop our charity will receive a percentage of the amount you spend *at no extra cost to yourself*. Dozens of the big popular stores are participants including Amazon, Argos, Next and M&S.



DO YOU BROWSE ONLINE...?

If you do, again you could be raising funds for The Next Step Trust as you browse! By choosing to use the search engine easysearch.com and registering online as a supporter of The Next Step Trust, our charity will receive a small donation every time you search the web *at no cost to you at all!* It really is that simple!

HALLOWEEN FUN

The Halloween Pie and Pea Party held at The Irish Club in October raised over £800 towards the minibus fund. The band Wind up Mind, who are Alex McFadden, Chris and Rob Crompton, entertained, along with a solo acoustic set by Darren Jackson. Many thanks to the lads and also to Michelle for her input in organizing the event.

WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM

The Trust has received several donations through this website but unfortunately, as we are not given any information regarding donors, we are unable to thank them personally. Therefore, we would like to say a huge thanks via this newsletter to everyone who has helped us in this way. **THANK YOU!**

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Next Step Forward

The official newsletter of
The Next Step Trust

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HAPPY
EASTER!



HURRAH FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The Next Step Trust is growing at an amazing rate and now meets the needs of 25 young people with severe and complex needs. Since 2006 our staff team has risen to over 20, who work hard to provide support along with meaningful and enriching activities for all our Next Steppers.

We also rely heavily on our faithful band of volunteers who give of their time freely, and on a regular basis, to add that 'little extra' to the daily lives of our young people.

Kath Noble, Chris Harris, Caroline Crossland and Lynda Jowett have volunteered in the kitchen, assisting Next Steppers to bake or prepare their lunches, almost since The Next Step Trust was set up. Shirley Hallgate (right) comes in regularly to assist Gary with his lunch.



Caroline in the kitchen

Angela Rhodes, one of our founder members, works hard keeping the garden tidy, and also helps out elsewhere in the centre when required.

Phil Naylor, Matthew's dad, offers an indispensable service getting out and readying the fleet of adapted bikes for our use at Spring Hall every Tuesday. This activity is of great enjoyment to ALL of our Next Steppers and we are desperate for a volunteer to do the same job to enable the bikes to be used on Fridays. No special skills are necessary! Please contact the centre if you feel you can help.

A special thanks to Alan Bottomley from Ravenscliffe, for his crucial input in training our staff to use the bike fleet. Thanks Alan!

(The writer of this little newsletter is also a willing volunteer!)



The Next Step Trust
Providing New Opportunities
for young people



So Please...Don't Forget our
Volunteer Garden Sessions!

These take place on the first Wednesday of every month (weather permitting) with Angela Rhodes. If you would like to spend a healthy morning outdoors, helping to keep the Centre gardens tidy, along with a cuppa and a chat, please come along anytime between 9.30am and noon.



WE'VE RENAMED THE BUILDING!

Community Foundation House has now become the exclusive home of The Next Step Trust! We are very proud to have our own sign on the front of the building.

The Community for Calderdale, who remain our landlord, have now moved to new offices at Discovery Road in Halifax. The Foundation has been very supportive of the Trust since the very beginning, and we are very grateful that they are now allowing us to use all of their space, especially as our numbers are continuing to rise!



The renovation of the building has been completed with more space being recently created downstairs, by removing the staff kitchen walls and by widening several doors.

Jo Steps Up!

Congratulations go to Jo Hastings who has now become Deputy Head of Centre at The Next Step Trust.

Many of you will already know Jo, who joined us in 2008 and has been working at the Trust in her dual role of support worker and Admin Manager. In the absence of Helen (Head of Centre) and Graham (Chief Executive), Jo will be there and more than happy to help with any issues or problems.



LUNCH COSTS

Unfortunately due to spiralling costs we have very reluctantly had to raise our charge for lunches to £2.50 per day.

The cost of £2.00 had been kept the same since we set up in 2006 and recently it has been quite a challenge to make ends meet!

We apologise for the increase but hope that you will agree that the cost is still very reasonable for a healthy, home cooked, two course lunch.

New Whiteboard

Jon Pearson, "Bidmeister Extraordinaire", has secured a grant of £6,000 from The Get Connected Investment Project which has been used to purchase a second whiteboard for the large room upstairs, a projector for the downstairs room, and some more powerful computers. Next Steppers of all abilities can use these exciting pieces of equipment at a level to suit themselves, either for education or leisure.

Jon was also successful in securing a substantial grant of £10,000 to fund the new lift from The Social Enterprise Investment Fund.

Well done, Jon. Many thanks and keep up the good work!

MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF...

Once again we have been busy recruiting new staff to meet the needs of our ever growing numbers. We have two full-time starters, Harriet and Jescah, and two new part-time staff, Jayne and Tina.

Bank staff are a very crucial part of the team in covering for staff holidays and illness as they can be called upon at very short notice. We are delighted to welcome to our back up team, John, Rogan, Dennis, Marcio and Helen.

Carolyn also joins us every Wednesday to provide regular music sessions for our Next Steppers.



THE YORKSHIRE 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE



On April 30th a group Staff, Next Steppers, Parents and Friends are attempting to complete the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge to raise funds for The Next Step Trust.

The team will be attempting to walk a total of 23 miles between and over Pen-y-Ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, climbing a combined ascent of over 4500 feet. The walkers will be supported on this gruelling route by staff and volunteers.

GOOD LUCK TEAM!

If you would like to collect sponsors or be a sponsor or join in the challenge, please contact Helen, Jo or Michelle at the Centre.