

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN FIRST

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022



Young People
and Children First

NOTE FROM THE CEO

Spring is nearly here! All of us at YPACF are well and looking forward to the longer days and some sunshine.

We hope you, our supporters, are all keeping well. It was an absolute joy to see some of you at our Family Fun Run on Sunday 27th February, where we enjoyed a beautiful morning together, walking and running around Greenham Common. It feels good to be planning events again, and fingers crossed, all 2022 events will go ahead with no cancellations due to Covid.

Our new young people have settled in well to our new house, Hope House, and Cornerstone and Rebecca House are currently having a makeover. Having Hope House has really made a difference, and we can now support 10 young people over our three houses. That said, the referrals keep on coming and we are now talking with partners with the aim of providing studio/one-bedroom flats for our young people, as move on options are so scarce.

The YPACF team; staff, young people, volunteers and trustees are all working hard, and not forgetting our founders, Patsy and John, who are invaluable to myself and the team. We welcome back Amy Haines (support worker) from maternity leave with open arms. A new Trustee, Michele Parrett also joined us at the end of 2021. Michele has lived experience of the care system and will be vital as a trustee and member of the Residents' Committee. Welcome Michele.

Lastly, please get your diaries out, go to Saturday 16th July and write "YPACF fabulous Summer Soiree". I look forward to seeing you there, if not before 😊. Keep well.

Tracy Underwood, CEO



NEWS FROM THE HOUSES

Our residents enjoyed Christmas time and were blown away by the generosity and kindness shown to them in the form of gifts and food. Christmas lunches were prepped, cooked and devoured across all our three houses with staff and young people enjoying a relaxed time together.

Sarah's homemade Yorkshire puddings were better than Aunt Bessie's!

It's been a very busy few months in the houses and we are pleased to have accommodated another three young people in our homes. The team have been supporting residents to engage with the community and have visited organisations such as the Berkshire Training Consortium which has resulted in two interviews for apprenticeships for our residents. Residents have also supported and visited the Thatcham community larder.

The team organised an online quiz night between the houses which was a tremendous success with the winning house being Hope House, it was such a hit with the residents we are going to have a quiz once a month. We are also having a staff and residents away day Paintballing and I predict that I will be the main target on the day (the things I do for the charity).

Cornerstone has had a re-decoration and is looking amazing and all residents have been involved in looking at the Young People & Children's First's [Amazon wish list](#) for items to make the houses more homely.

One of our residents is going to have her artwork exhibited at the West Berkshire museum and we are all very proud of them and excited to go and visit the exhibition. Another resident was interviewed by Heart FM and spoke knowledgeably about the cost of living increase.

Laura Ferris MP for West Berkshire visited our accommodation and chatted with residents about the barriers for young people leaving care, one youngster told Laura "if there were more places like YPACF in the country it would help", well we would fully agree with that statement.

Scott Fraser

Support Manager (scottfraser@ypacf.org.uk)



Laura Ferris MP

25 February at 16:47



There are few harder starts a young person can have than a childhood spent in and out of care.

The huge emotional toll of parents who can't, or won't, or are not permitted to look after them. The insecurity that results from being shuttled from pillar to post - staying nowhere for that long and having little in the way of permanent adult support.

In the two years I have been an MP I have heard little as moving as I the account I heard today from one young lady who is now being cared for by Tracy, Scott and her key worker Lauren at the [Young People & Children First](#) home in Thatcham. They have literally turned her life around. "No young person who comes here will forget what they have done for them" she said.

I wish her and all the children they care for all the very best & look forward to supporting this extraordinary charity with their plans for expansion and development over the years ahead.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers.
You are our unsung heroes and cherished members of our team

Can you help us with practical odd jobs?

We are in desperate need of a handy man/woman for one morning a week to do odd jobs in our houses. If you would like to help, please email sarahmcgill@ypacf.org.uk who would love to talk to you.

Can you help our young people to grow veg?

We have raised beds in the garden of one of our homes in which our young residents would like to grow vegetables which will be shared between our three homes. If you have green fingers and an hour or two a week to spare please contact Scott (scottfraser@ypacf.org.uk)

EVENTS

We enjoyed a busy time of fundraising and events in the run up to Christmas including a very successful online raffle, a car wash, a cake raffle and a stall at the Thatcham Christmas lights switch on event.

We had our charity's first ever fun run on Sunday 27th February. A huge thank you to everyone that participated and to our volunteers. We couldn't have wished for more enthusiastic participants nor better weather. We enjoyed delicious cakes which were donated to us by two wonderful volunteers.

A total of £633 was raised which will be spent on upgrading a bathroom at our charity home.



Some of the runners taking part in the fundraiser

Ref: 08-0222



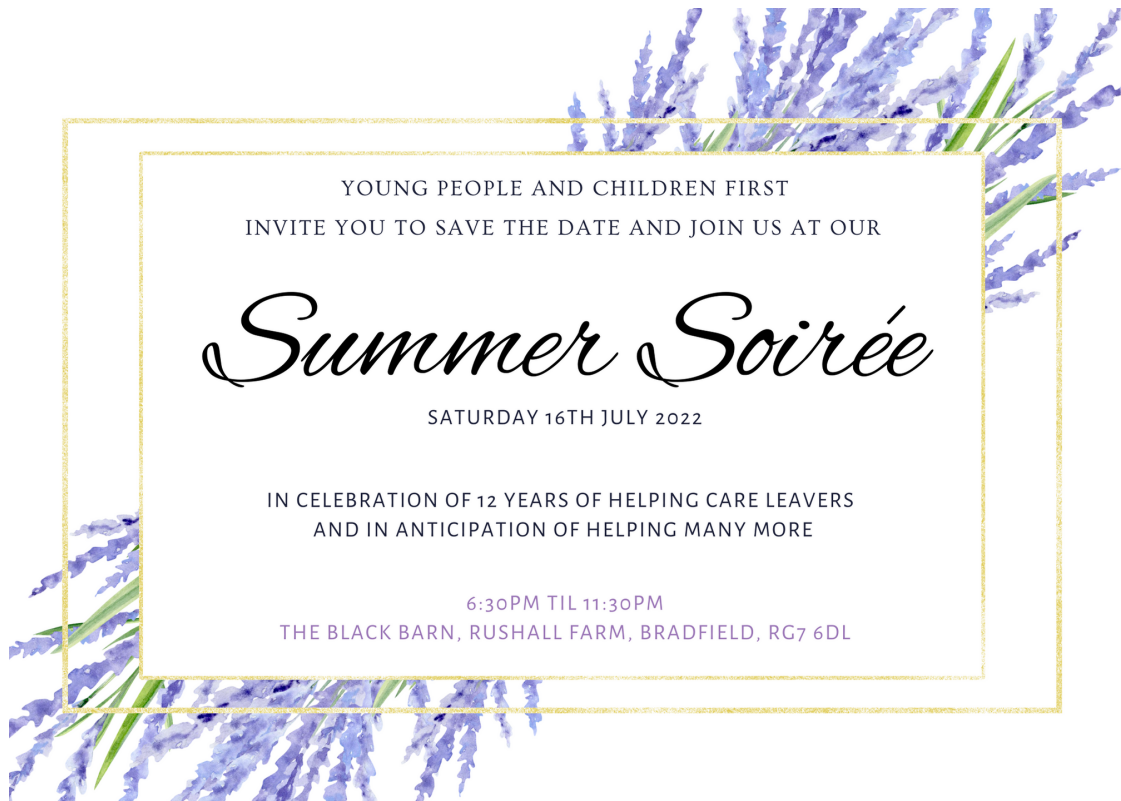
Do you want to join us on the 10th July for the Asics 10K fundraising run?

Sunday 10th July Asics 10k run in London

Would you like to take part in one of the most iconic 10K runs this summer, passing Big Ben and the London Eye?

If so, we would love for you to run for YPACF!

We have 30 places secured for this run, so you wouldn't have to pay for your ticket. All we ask is that you seek sponsorship for a minimum of £250 and we will be there in London with you on the day, cheering you on and seeing you across the finish line. If you would like to take part please email sarahmcgill@ypacf.org.uk and she will sign you up!



YPACF Summer Soiree

We invite our supporters, volunteers, corporate supporters, friends and family to 'save the date' for a YPACF party that we would love you to attend.

Due to COVID we were unable to celebrate our charity turning 10 years old. We are organising a party to celebrate this milestone. It will be dinner, bar, an auction/raffle and then dancing.

There will be approximately 18 tables of 8 people. We will invite you to book individual seats or to book a table. Please look out for more details, including tickets prices, over the coming weeks.

FUNDRAISING

It would be no exaggeration to say that we could not provide the level of service and care that we do without financial donations from groups, trusts, clubs, businesses and individuals.

We never take these donations for granted and fully appreciate the effort that goes into fundraising. We know that it's often the cake sales, the raffles, the small events, the committee meetings, the volunteering, the kindness and generosity of many people that lead to these donations.

We have been very lucky, over last few months, to have received monetary donations from Newbury and Crookham Golf Club, Thatcham Rotary Club, Pangbourne Parents Association, Baxter, Foundation IT, J Finance, Highclere Ladies Group, The Facet Trust, Woolhampton Parishes, East Woodhay Society and R&H Woods charitable trust, as well as individuals.

We are delighted to have been chosen by Bradfield Ladies Golf Club as their charity of the year, by Reading University and by the Newbury arm of the British Sugar Craft Guild who have also chosen us as one of their charities of the year.

We will be having a raffle and auction at our Summer Soiree event.

Do you have any raffle or auction prizes that you could donate for this event? If so, please email me, sarahmcgill@ypacf.org.uk and I can arrange collection.

Thank you,

Sarah

Senior Fundraiser, sarahmcgill@ypacf.org.uk

STAY IN TOUCH

We would love for you to stay in touch.

We can't email you if you have not given us permission to do so. If you would like to receive quarterly newsletters like these, the occasional invitation or request for help, please email sarahmcgill@ypacf.org.uk and she will add you to our email distribution list.

We do also use our Facebook and Instagram pages regularly to share news. Please search YPACF to find us.

Our newsletters, blogs, volunteering opportunities, job vacancies and details of how to donate can all be found on our website www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk.

Thank you and stay safe, from all the team at Young People and Children First.