



Youth and Families Matter
Celebrating **25** years

*Working for the wellbeing
of our community*



Welcome to our latest update

It's been a busy few months as always at YFM, especially as we wind down the school work as the holidays start, and begin to plan for the events over the summer. We are also having to think about what will be happening in September. Most of the staff will be taking some time off over the summer break, but there are still lots of families and individuals to support so the work never completely stops! You can read a bit about what we have got planned.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Kelly

Gearing up for the summer

The team are now busy preparing for the summer break. This year we are not running our usual playscheme but instead have three free family activity sessions...sports @ the park (7th Aug), film (8th Aug) and picnic (9th Aug). These are open to all but it's a stay and play so all children need to come with an adult.



We also have our activity days for our young people and it's kayaking and battlefield LIVE on the agenda this year. We can't wait! And our TIDES group are taking a day trip out to the seaside. We couldn't run these summer activities without additional funding so thank you to The Hedley Foundation, Hampshire County Council grant via Cllr Harrison and the Joseph Rank Foundation.

Making sure we continue to be there...

It's important that as our usual term time activities have a break during the summer months we can still see some of the children, young people and families we work with. It helps provide continuity in support, helps develop relationships and provides activities or a day out in a safe environment for those who are facing difficult times.

Basics Bank helping record numbers of people

Food Banks are sadly a vital part of our society and our own Basics Bank project is no exception. We are continuing to see record numbers come to us for food. In the first six months of this year we have seen a 69% increase in demand compared to the same period last year. Thank you to all those who give food, give money and of course to our amazing

team of volunteers. As well as sorting, dating and packing the food they have also become expert speakers on the subject and have had various groups in over the past few weeks. We say a special thank you to Ray & Rachel Beare who this week officially finished their time with Basics Bank....and that's after over 15 years supporting this

project! What an amazing couple! Thank you!

Please do continue to remember to add an extra tin or packet to your weekly shop - as soon as the food is coming in it is going out and stocks are very low.



Autism event a huge success

'Thanks to YFM for this evening. So insightful...I reckon I probably learned more about ASD in 2hrs tonight than I have over the last 2 years. Just wow!'

We were delighted to host an evening with Ros Blackburn earlier this month. The event titled Logically Illogical: Information and Insight into Autism was attended by over 170 people.

Ros was able to give an honest and open account of her experiences growing up with autism and share some of her knowledge and insight. Thank you to Julie and Jenni Tribble, two of our volunteers who helped put the event together and also to the South East Branch of The National Autistic Society for their support. Planning is already taking place for another event next year.

Goodbye Alli



The team said a sad farewell to Alli, our Schools Worker, who left in July after an amazing nine years with YFM. Alli has been a fantastic member of the team showing dedication and commitment to the hundreds of children and young people she has mentored in local schools during her time at YFM. We will miss you Alli.

We are pleased to say that we have appointed Sally King to lead our primary schools work programme. Sally will be joining the team in September and brings a wide range of skills and knowledge - we look forward to welcoming her into the team.

Fabulous Fun Day

What another great Family Fun Day. This year we had a change from our usual inflatable jousting and hosted the children's zone. In celebration of our 25th birthday this year we had a party tent with balloon modelling, bubbles, giant jenga, party hats and birthday craft.



Youth and Families Matter, Testwood Baptist Church, 283a Salisbury Road, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 3LZ
023 8086 0320 | info@youthandfamiliesmatter.org.uk | www.youthandfamiliesmatter.org.uk

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