

APRIL 2024



SPRING NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This is our first newsletter for 2024 and we have been busy with our five-year celebration event which happened on Thursday 22nd February. We opened our venue to the public as well as sending invitations to our funders, social workers, council members and new referrals.



CELEBRATING 5 YEARS AT THE CENTRE

We have now been at the centre for five years. It doesn't seem that long ago that we moved in. Lots has happened since and obviously two years of that has been when we were all scared of going out of our house due to covid. Everyone loves our centre and over the years we have made changes to have the space reflect the personality and character of our charity including its staff and clients.

A big thank you to Cake Box for donating a celebration cake.

Congratulations to Mark Bennett who won the raffle!

And many thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket, we raised £117!



10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY BALL

In November this year we will be celebrating our 10-year anniversary as a charity. We want to announce that, in celebration, we will be holding a 10-year anniversary ball on 30th November at the Park Inn hotel in Southend. We want to offer this event to be free and invite all those people who have helped us over the years and been a part of the Friends and Places family. Invitations will be sent out in September, and we are sending out reminders to hold this event in their calendars. Anyone that's been invited can donate any money for the ticket.



HOLIDAYS

We are also planning holidays and day trips and will be updating everyone with what holidays and when, so that people can start saving.

KEEP READING



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

We want to update you on our community presence. We have been visiting all local schools and colleges and have updated people in our community about the service that we provide. We are also aware that many people still don't know about us. We are trying to rectify this by marketing ourselves. We hope that you have seen great improvement on our postings on social media.

We are also sponsoring Lancaster lions football club where their red t-shirts advertise Friends and Places Together. We think it's a great fit for us to sponsor local football teams and we are hoping that this will continue.



ACTIVITIES

We have also been more active in setting up more activities for clients this past year. These include film night, over 25s group, arts and crafts, and also karaoke group, as well as the usual support we offer to Freedom and to watch Southend United. We are also developing team spirit for the 14+ age group.



We have also developed links with All in Music from Southend YMCA who hold activities in our building where we offer other groups of people to come along and meet us. Tom & Davey support all who attend with their unique style of music Based outreach work which helps grow individuals confidence to try new things.



FUNDRAISING

To make the anniversary ball a great success and to have that cost nothing for people, we are holding multiple fundraisers throughout the year and would be so glad if people could attend/donate or share with friends and family. We already have to raise a large portion of our funds from our community and with an extra special event like this we are pushing even more this year!



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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

A special 21st birthday shout out to Alex who turned 21 in February!



THANK YOU TO...

Thank you to the Westcliff Hotel for the space to host our Christmas & Valentines Party's.



FREEDOM'S ANNIVERSARY

Big congratulations to the much loved Freedom crew, who celebrated their 6 year anniversary in March!



And a very warm thank you to the City of Southend Lion's club for their very generous £150 donation.



EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO A SOCIAL LIFE

