



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2011

SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS
AND THEIR FAMILIES

MAYPOLE IS HERE FOR FAMILIES:

Family support continues and it is flexible and ongoing in the way it is provided by The Maypole Project during this year:

- We now support 172 families across South East London and parts of Kent.
- During the year 61 families each received an average of 10 sessions, these were at home, in hospital, in school.
- Families increasingly use our support in a pattern to meet their needs; appreciating its flexibility.
- The people we supported were; the ill / disabled child, their parents (individual and as couple), aunts, cousins, grandparents and even friends.
- We are receiving increasing number of referrals from bereaved families – who more often would have liked to have known us during their child's lifetime, and we are working to make this access easier.
- We attended 40 meetings with families in various settings to help them with an additional "pair of ears" and sometimes to help families to voice their issues /concerns.
- 6 respite days were run which gave fun to children with complex medical needs, and their siblings and a break to parents and carers.
- Art and craft groups have run each week; with wonderful works of art being taken home!
- Art therapy is now an additional form of support we offer, and which is increasingly being accessed.
- Parent groups have been run every month.

Our primary aims this year are to:

- Reach out to more families
- Reach families sooner

To do this we will work to increase our funding in order to then increase our support team through the addition of at least 1 family support worker – a voluntary befriender, and 1 family support practitioner (part time) – qualified counsellor.

NEWS ON MAYPOLE GROUPS:

PARENTS AND CARERS WANTING TO MEET OTHERS?

The Maypole Project is re-creating a meeting place specifically **for parents of children with disabilities**. This will be a daytime group – but there may also be occasional evenings. We are planning to have occasional speakers. If you are interested please contact us.

We have also heard that many **bereaved parents** would like to meet others . . . if this is you then please let us know and we will provide the space, drinks and nibbles!

CALLING ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS

DO YOU HAVE A SIBLING WHO HAS COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS?

WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS MAY LIKE TO MEET OTHERS

THEREFORE WE PLAN TO START NEW GROUPS;

PARENTS – PLEASE LET YOUR CHILDREN KNOW AND THEN TELL US IF THEY ARE INTERESTED SO WE CAN WRITE TO THEM /YOU DIRECTLY.

THANK YOU!

ART AND CRAFT GROUPS - CREATE @ 51 SPONSORED BY CHILDREN IN NEED

HOLIDAYS – DROP INS Two drop-ins have been held this year so far.

At Easter some beautiful rabbit masks, pop-up cards and string pictures were created by our talented visitors.

During the summer drop-in the children painted glass bowls and made rocky road cakes. October half term will be a Collage workshop. CONTACT SHIRLEY HOOPER FOR THEMES FOR DECEMBER!

AND WATCH THIS SPACE FOR ADDITIONAL GROUPS AND EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

TRIPS AND EVENTS!

THE DORCHESTER VISITED CHISLEHURST TO MEET MAYPOLE FAMILIES!

ON 3rd OF AUGUST SOME OF OUR FAMILIES WERE TREATED TO A LOVELY TEA PARTY AT “ENPARADE” IN CHISLEHURST.

THE SUN SHONE ON US WHILE WE ENJOYED DELICATE FINGER SANDWICHES, DRINKS CAKES & SCONES COURTESY OF TRACEY MADLEY, of EN PARADE & GIACOMO FAURE, FROM THE DORCHESTER.

SHORT BREAKS - NEXT ACTIVITY DAY WILL BE: 22ND DECEMBER . . .

A DAY OF FUN, ARTS AND CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, ENTERTAINER, AND MUCH MORE!
TO PROVIDE A BREAK FOR PARENTS AND CARERS . . . OR A PLACE TO MEET OVER A COFFEE!
APPLY TO US FOR DETAILS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

FUNDING FOR DH IS NOW COMPLETED – HOWEVER THE WORK CONTINUES.

INTEREST AND DETAIL IN THE WORK WE UNDERTOOK WAS SO GREAT THAT THE PAPERWORK IS NOW AT FINAL DRAFT STAGE AND IS BEING PEER REVIEWED BEFORE GOING TO PRINT. FOR COPIES IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PLEASE CONTACT US.

TRAINING NOTEBOOK

PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE PATHWAY

EXTENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CHILDREN'S PALLIATIVE CARE

AND ACCESS THE TELEPHONE HELPLINE AS A RESULT OF MAPPING SERVICES VIA: 01689 889889

TELEPHONE HELPLINE – HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AND THE MAYPOLE GOES NATIONAL!

THE HELPLINE IS SET UP TO SUPPORT:

Families with a child with complex medical needs

- **emotional support**; our helpline volunteers are trained to listen, understand and support to help you through a difficult time.

You can call just once . . . or you can pick up ongoing support by phone. Counselling (qualified counsellors) and parent to parent support is also available.

- **information**; we have a wealth of information to hand for example other services available, grants and financial support. When you call us if we can't immediately find the answer to your question we will always return the call.

Professionals who work children with complex medical needs and their families

We will provide emotional support and information

We can also help you to access the full range of The Maypole Project services to professionals.

Days and times: Monday 12 noon – 3 p.m. / Tuesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Wednesday 5pm – 8 p.m. / Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon

7 VOLUNTEERS FULLY TRAINED - MORE NEEDED!

FULL TRAINING SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION PROVIDED – CONTACT US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP:

PHONE LINE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM SPONSORED BY – IRWIN MITCHELL

Maypole Christmas Cards for Sale

This year we are selling Maypole Christmas Cards from the following places:

Shop at 51 High Street
Green St Green
Orpington

Shop at 161 High Street
Orpington

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONALS

Support to professionals continues to be a large percentage of the work and support that is carried out by The Maypole Project. In this way we can ensure that professionals are well supported in the work they do through;

Supervision; where professionals working with children with complex medical needs and their families can offload their emotions about the work, can reflect on their reactions and interventions with the families
Debrief, when a child dies or there is a critical incident.

Counselling, when one to one psychological support is needed to alleviate the stresses of such an emotive workload

Training, to enable staff to learn more about the psychosocial impacts on families where there is a child with complex medical needs, and to develop their support, communication and listening skills to enable them to continue and deepen their ongoing relationship with children with complex medical needs and their families

We are currently supporting: 6 schools, 5 healthcare professionals, 2 student counsellors

Through: supervision, debrief, counselling and consultancy

YOU CAN HELP US:

Children's illness and disability affects people in so many different settings. So, if you have a connection with a school, a healthcare team, social services please tell someone about The Maypole Project and how we could support staff. Tell them to contact us, and we will do the rest.

FUND RAISING

NEW TEAM FORMAT

NIKKI TAYLOR IS OUR NEWLY APPOINTED FUNDRAISING MANAGER. WHOSE WEALTH OF FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS GOOD INSIGHT INTO THE WORK OF THE MAYPOLE THROUGH RESPITE AND VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATION, WILL PROVIDE THE ESSENTIAL ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO ADD EVEN MORE DYNAMISM TO OUR EXISTING TEAM: BECCA DE VAUX (COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER) and PHIL PRICE (ACTIVE CHALLENGES). JO KHALEF (RETAIL CO-ORDINATOR) AND SHOP CO-ORDINATORS MAGGIE PARKINSON AND ANNIE MERCHANT

NEW SHOP MAYPOLE@161 OPENED IN SEPTEMBER!

Following the developing success of our shop @ 51 High Street Green Maypole has taken the plunge to open another 'charity shop with a difference'

Jo Khalef, Annie Merchant, and a team of brave volunteers completed the fitting and stocking of this shop, lease negotiations, design, and works management by David Taylor with Amanda Taylor. This team has put huge amounts of time; energy and more importantly Style into this new venture . . . come and shop!

Care to share something spare? . . . please do come and donate! We really need stocks of everything!

We also need your spare time . . . volunteering in this fun and vibrant shop will add another dimension to your life.

Retail@themaypole is SUPPORTED BY many people in the community including BIG YELLOW BOX FOR STORAGE, and ALNA VI for new goods; shoes and bags

YOUR SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP – CAN HELP US IN SO MANY WAYS; A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS AND FRIENDS!

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE FUNDRAISING:

We have been truly overwhelmed by the support from companies and local communities and would like to thank ALL of you for your ongoing support.

Across the past quarter we have received an amazing sum from companies, community organizations, clubs and local branches of shops. We find that we are supported in a variety of extremely creative ways from live music festivals through to quiz nights, dance shows, fairs, themed days, golf days, matched funding. We are also grateful for those companies (large and small) whose support is ongoing, who choose us as their "charity of the year". All of these events are really important as they do not only provide us with finances to expand our family support team, but they also raise our profile across the community.

We would like to be able to thank each and every one of you individually, but unfortunately this is just not possible – you know who you are, and please accept our huge vote of thanks:

A BRILLIANT EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT!:

On 26th August IKEA Croydon held a fundraising day of fun at their store, organized by their fundraising committee. Seven members of staff gave up a day's leave to sell raffle tickets (dressed as Vikings and Swedish Maids!) to do arts and crafts with children and run a lucky dip stall. A group of Maypole staff and volunteers painted faces, applied tattoos. The day was fun for all and raised in excess of £1,500 for the charity!

HOW ABOUT TRYING TO RUN A DAY LIKE THIS YOURSELF?



GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR FUNDRAISING? CONTACT NIKKI ON nikkitaylor@themaypoleproject.co.uk

SPECIAL MAYPOLE EVENTS –

THE MAYPOLE BLACK AND WHITE BALL - held May this year amazingly raised £13,000. This was our highest level of funds raised to date (helped by an anonymous donor who match funded the auction total). It was a really lively and well-attended event!

We are now (incredibly) working our way towards our 10th Anniversary in 2013, which will be an opportunity for the Maypole Project Fund Raising team to organize a HUGE event.

Meanwhile “watch this space” for a special event with a difference in June 2012.

ACTIVE CHALLENGES:

2011 has been a fantastic year for active events to date. We would like to thank our trekkers, cyclists and runners for their fantastic determination and fabulous fundraising efforts.

We would like to wish good luck to all of our active challenge participants who are currently training and fundraising in preparation for their event!

Forthcoming events:

5k Santa Fun Run Dec 2011,

In 2012: Brighton Marathon April,

London Marathon April,

BUPA London 10,000 May,

Super hero 5k Fun Run May,

Asics 10k July,

Royal Parks ½ Marathon October

Not a runner? Please contact us for information on other events such as skydiving, trekking, cycling . . .

**IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PLACE IN AN EVENT . . .
PLEASE SUPPORT FOR THE MAYPOLE AND THINK OF THE DIFFERENCE IT WILL MAKE**

MAYPOLE GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE! FANCY WINNING £300 BEFORE CHRISTMAS???

This year, The Maypole Project is holding a grand Christmas Raffle! There are three fabulous prizes to be won. The lucky first prize winner will receive **£300 in Toys R Us vouchers** – a welcome win to splash on Christmas pressies - second prize is a **Nintendo DSi** and third prize a **£50 Boots voucher**. Tickets cost £1 each and the draw takes place on Monday 12th December. All money raised goes to The Maypole Project.

We've popped a book of 10 tickets in with the newsletter so, if you'd like to support us by buying some tickets, please complete the ticket counterfoils and return them to **Rebecca de Vaux, The Maypole Project, 51 High Street, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6BQ** with a cheque made out to **“The Maypole Project”** so that we receive them by **Saturday 10th December** at the latest.

Please only send cheques **not cash** by post. If you'd like to buy them with cash, you could always pop your ticket counterfoils and money into our shops at 51 High Street, Green Street Green or 161 High Street, Orpington.

Please call Rebecca on 01689 851596 if you have any questions or would like more tickets for your family or friends. Good Luck!!

51 High Street Green Street Green Orpington BR6 6BQ 01689 851596
www.themaypoleproject.co.uk info@themaypoleproject.co.uk

The Maypole Project Autumn Newsletter 2011