

Learning Disabilities; - settling in, making plans and reaching out.

Our most recently opened supported houses in Essex and Surrey will soon be celebrating their first anniversaries and, supported by Field Lane's Care and Support Agency (FLCSA), their tenants are creating their own communities. Nicky Winn, FLCSA Manager in Southend is happy at their progress. "They've all taken ownership of the house. They are coping very well with the different personalities and are friendly. There are arguments, but no more than could happen in other shared housing. They are learning both the buttons to push and when to stop pushing them."

One thing about our new tenants that Nicky noticed was their lack of personal 'histories'. Apart from their own memories they had no photographs or written documentation to record their experiences. Nicky has since introduced memory books for all of the tenants. Here they can chronicle and record their new experiences. Tickets from London musicals, other leisure activities and photos of all involved in the outings are now rapidly filling the pages.

In Reigate, FLCSA has expanded rapidly over the past year. It now delivers over 600 care hours per week to 15 clients with almost 50% of clients living outside of our own managed houses. Our tenants are being introduced to greater community access such as opening their own bank accounts, and with support, are resolving previous anxieties and 'challenging' behavioural patterns. To provide the support that helps to make the changes, FLCSA now employs 22 people on a full or part time basis.

Most of our new tenants are attending educational courses or planning for the next challenge. Some are supported to attend mainstream college course, such as M who is studying Travel and Tourism. It wasn't easy at first. The attitudes of some of his course mates had made him want to quit after the first day. However, supported by staff he agreed to go back and on the second day his confidence permitted him to introduce himself to his induction week group. "My name is M. I won't say that I suffer from autism. It's part of who I am". M has since spoken of his experience of supported living in front of Southend social workers and has received 'Outstanding Achievement' and 'Excellence' awards from both Mencap and The Jack Petchey Foundation.

It's not all study though. At Badgers, nursing home manager Lyndsay Brown is planning the holiday roster for those going on supported holidays. Elsewhere, another Southend tenant is going to fly for the very first time, with an ambition to go further next time.

Special Appeal for Older People's Services

We all know of the deficits in elderly care provision. Local authority funding for residential dementia care and nursing has been capped for the past two years and will be frozen, at best, for the foreseeable future despite increased demand. However, Field Lane has always stood for helping those less able to help themselves and this has not changed.

The combination of low fees, inflation and increasing costs means that we must currently find an average of £1,200 annually for each of our 80 dementia care residents. This subsidy inevitably also impacts on our ability to develop services to meet the increased demands on all our areas of work.

Could you help us to meet the future care needs of our vulnerable elderly? In order to help us to maintain and improve our well regarded services for older people, we are;

- **Setting an appeal target of £100,000**
- **Writing to hundreds of charitable trusts and foundations to seek funds.**
- **Actively seeking to contact new donors who share our aims and values.**

As well as financial donations, we are also keen to learn of new ways to reach out to others through individual contact, social or leisure groups. If you have friends who you could introduce to Field Lane's work then we would be happy to provide information materials as required. Please contact Trevor O'Farrell, Funding and Communications Manager, Field Lane, 16 Vine Hill, London EC1R 5EA or at; tofarrell@fieldlane.org.uk, Please also direct your contacts to our website at;

www.fieldlane.org.uk



We have put people before profit since 1841 and currently spend ninety five pence of every pound of income on direct charitable care and support services. So however you, or others, may choose to help us, you can be assured that it makes a real difference to the lives of those in our care.

Thank you.



INSIDE LANE

For the Supporters of The Field Lane Foundation

Field Lane
Christian care and housing

Summer 2011

'On the Move'

Care service developments and the leaving of Vine Hill

Chief Executive's Summer Overview

'Field Lane will do what it does best - to listen to, care for and support vulnerable people in ways that put them at the centre of their lives.'

This year is our 170th anniversary and it is wonderful that for so many years Field Lane has continued to support and care for people. I know both from Field Lane and from caring for my own relatives that services are under enormous pressure and it is hard to avoid talk of 'cuts' but as the quote above says, we in Field Lane will continue to do what we do best.

We all enjoy a celebration and throughout Field Lane we are hosting 170th birthday parties so that everyone associated with Field Lane can join in. This will be fun as well as having a serious side; I want to encourage more support for Field Lane so we can go on doing what we do best and for more people.

The houses we opened last year for people with a learning disability have shown how good accommodation and excellent support can transform people's lives and now we are being asked to open more houses.

I am also delighted that our families centre in London has just added two more flats so that more families can enjoy the safety and strength of the project.



'Our Garden'. Artwork at the families centre

I hope you have a wonderful Summer and thank you for your continuing support of our work.

Jeremy Lamb

Moving On...

170 years young this year and Field Lane is leaving home

Our specialized care of older people with dementia is an essential service and we are trying to raise £100,000 to support that work. The homes have had a spring 'freshening' and The Priory in Worthing will be celebrating 60 years of caring for people this year.

People often say to me that they don't know enough about Field Lane's good work so I am planning to circulate an e-letter to help us stay in touch more easily. Do we have your email? Please let Trevor O'Farrell have it on; tofarrell@fieldlane.org.uk

Field Lane was established by people with a strong Christian faith so that people would receive the care and support they needed. Our faith and vision follows theirs and we will use that strength to carry on supporting and caring even though finances are difficult.

In July we will say a fond farewell to the Vine Hill Clerkenwell offices that have housed Field Lane's headquarters since 1878. Then the foundation's activities included; 'a Bible Ragged School, a library, a Mutual Improvement Society, Ragged Church, a "broken" food distribution service, crèche, refuges and much more.



The foundation occupied all of the Vine Hill site, whereas today only the building on the right remains. It has been decided to accept an offer for the final building with a view to reinvesting the capital into our care services. We will be writing to you in due course with all of our new contact details, as well as posting them on our website;

www.fieldlane.org.uk

APH Families. Giving back...



This photo shows 'N' presenting flowers to Faicka her support worker. 'N' was expressing gratitude for the help she had received whilst a tenant at Andrew Provan House (APH).

Having been made homeless through overcrowding at her previous accommodation, 'N' arrived at the project uncertain of her future and with a seven year old son who was having concentration problems at school. Field Lane's sponsored intervention (children's work remains unfunded through Supporting People programmes) focused around help with homework and reading and quality one to one support by Daniel, a support assistant at APH.

Teachers have since reported that her son's concentration is vastly improved and he is happier and settled at school. 'N' has since been able to go back to college where she is following a design course.

'N' has now been found appropriate accommodation and with APH's continued support, can begin to build her family's future from a stable basis.

Giving back too...

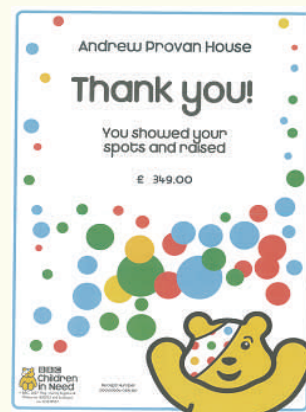
Times of austerity seldom bring out the best in people. The 2011 Sunday Times Rich List stated; 'Charitable donations from the top 100 philanthropists in the UK fell by almost a third to £1.67bn in 2009/10.'

However, at Field Lane our homeless families came together to fundraise for others through both the BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief appeals.

The original idea was floated by the families at an APH house meeting before the BBC's annual Children in Need appeal. After much concentrated thought, it was decided that to ensure that the children could be involved, no matter what age, a sponsored 'Buggiethon-push and walk' would be held in Kensington Gardens.

Supported by APH staff the families raised £349 for BBC Children in Need.

Several months later and the families and staff were at it again for Comic Relief. This time, plans laid in series of house meetings brought more participants and even more initiatives.



The second 'Buggiethon' boasted even more participants and this time in pyjamas. The kitty was further supplemented by a cake selling afternoon (eagerly supported by local mums, nannies and young children from the neighbouring schools) and, braving the elements, three stalls were given by the Portobello Market for a general charity sale of collected and donated bric-a-brac.

And the final result?

Lenny and Comic relief were £523 grateful!

"Well done Andrew Provan House! The £523 you so fantastically raised for Red Nose Day 2011 could pay for 2 children living in desperate poverty to go to school for a whole year."

And the giving doesn't stop there! Throughout the year APH families help a project supported by Daniel, by collecting and donating unwanted useful items for redistribution in Nigeria.

Caring for Older People

From the headlines around very large indebted care providers to the cuts that local authorities are being faced with, it has recently been hard to avoid the debate around social care and who pays for it.

A Kings Fund report ; **Social care funding and the NHS: an impending crisis?** published in March 2011 and looking at the 27 per cent real reduction in the central government grant to local authorities between 2011/12 and 2014/15, suggested that there could be a funding gap of £1 billion by 2014 unless councils can achieve unprecedented efficiency savings.

In June 2011, The Independent newspaper reported that; 'Home help and residential care services for tens of thousands of elderly and disabled people will be slashed this year as councils struggle to cope with the spending squeeze..... Authorities face an average cut of 6 per cent in social care budgets – and more than double that in some of the hardest-pressed authorities – leading to redundancies and care-home closures.'



Magnolia blooms at The Priory 04/11

Priorities at The Priory

At The Priory, manager Allena Edwards is delighted to welcome new residents and many are older and frailer than before as people are remaining at home for so much longer. This means that often their care needs are much more intense and one example of this is that Allena is organising more in-house activities as more people are now choosing to remain 'at home' rather than go out into the community. Allena is full of praise for her dedicated staff team who are well supported by Field Lane's own training manager and she keeps in close touch with local social workers who know that anyone, whatever the extent of their need, can find a home at The Priory.

Allena knows that all care is financially precarious and that everyone is feeling the pinch. She says 'because we are a charity we take a large number of people who are unable to fund their care themselves and receive assistance from the state.' This is why we are so grateful to our supporters as without them we cannot care for people who can no longer care for themselves. But she says you have to live in the here and now and be adaptable to change. The Priory has been serving its local community in Worthing for sixty years this year - just imagine the changes in society in that time!

Bonnie the care dog

The Priory's adopted care dog, Bonnie, is a beautiful 2 year old Blue Collie. As her breed suggests she is a working dog and a willing addition to the Priory's dedicated care team.

"Bonnie isn't just a cuddly companion or furry friend" says Allena. "She is really empathic with the residents and she looks out for those who might be in need of a bit of extra cheer."

When Bonnie's owner Helen is on duty, two of the residents put Bonnie to bed at night and she returns the favour for other residents. Similarly, morning will see Bonnie doing the rounds to wake up residents and bring them down to breakfast. Then, only when all are gathered in will she take her rest.



Changes at Dovers

We have recently had a change of management at our Dovers home in Reigate. Home Manager Rose Bowering has been succeeded by her Senior Lead, Pat Puplett. We wish Rose a bright future and thank her for all her hard work at Dovers. We are confident that Pat, who is well known to our residents and families, will thrive in her new role.

Please see the special appeal for our services for older people on the back page.