

About Wales

Issue No 3
Summer 2008

Save the Children awards

Pembrokeshire traveller Kirby Jones recently received a Young Person's Achievement Award from HRH Princess Anne at The Save the Children Awards. Kirby has been actively involved with the Save the Children Wales Programme since 2005. She has worked with enthusiasm and passion to promote the participation of marginalised groups in Wales, in particular promoting the voice of young Gypsy Travellers.

The awards are designed to recognise outstanding achievement, bravery or commitment to dramatic change for children and young people. The ceremony was held at South Africa House in London and attended by Save the Children's President, HRH Princess Royal, Jasmine Whitbread, CEO of Save the Children and The South African High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Lindiwe Mabuzza.

Volunteer Day 2008

This year's Volunteer Day will be held at The Lord Mayor's Reception Room, Swansea Guild Hall on 27th September, from 10.30 until 3.00. The event is an opportunity for everyone to hear more about our work in Wales and around the world, to meet staff, and to share ideas. Lunch is provided.

The event is open to all of our volunteers – and those interested in supporting our work in the future. If you would like to find out more about attending, please contact Sharon Donald on 029 2034 5224 or email s.donald@savethechildren.org.uk

Jess heads for Burma in aid of cyclone victims

Two weeks after Cyclone Nargis hit the coast of Myanmar (Burma), Jess Camburn, who is Youth Campaigner for Save the Children in Wales, flew out to help with the huge emergency operation. Our team has now reached almost 500,000 people, including around 140,000 children, distributing vital supplies such as food, clean water and blankets.

Speaking from Burma, Jess says, "It is easy, in the fast paced world of news to forget about the stories that made the headlines a month ago, but these children will never forget the night that Nargis hit. The team here are planning to be working in the affected areas for the long-term, helping communities to rebuild their lives. We will not be able to erase the memory of Nargis from those who suffered it, but hopefully with time we will be able to reduce its impact."



Jess Camburn, photo by John McKernan

We Save the Children  Will you?

Llais Pobl Ifanc Project

Here at Save the Children we are all aware of the importance of giving children and young people a voice. Recently we've been working with a group of young people from Carmarthenshire to increase opportunities for young people to participate through the medium of Welsh. A workshop was held in May with a group from Coleg Sir Gâr in Carmarthenshire, where they learned about the skills needed to be a trainer and about a variety of activities they could use in the future to collect opinions.

It also gave the young people a taste of a project which promotes the social use of Welsh by young people. They also get the opportunity to train adults on how best to encourage and support the involvement of children and young people in their organisations and work.



Students from Coleg Sir Gâr

Travelling Ahead

An eye-opening account of the discrimination and problems faced by Gypsy Traveller children has been produced by Save the Children, with funding from the Welsh Assembly Government. In the DVD *Travelling Ahead*, over 50 children from across Wales are interviewed about their experiences and their culture. Dr Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, said, "Save the Children have done an excellent job ensuring Gypsy Traveller children and young people have a voice." Ant Edwards from Save the Children said: "We hope the DVD is going to raise awareness of the issues faced by Gypsy Traveller children and young people in Wales and also challenge prejudice and discrimination."

'Young Carers – The Way It Is' training

There are an estimated 3,500 young carers living in Cardiff. With the support of Save the Children and Cardiff Youth Forum three young people - Steph Smith, Ben Sainty and Andrew Bagshaw - have got together to highlight some of the problems young carers face. One of the ways they are helping is by training other young people and professionals to make sure young carers' needs are considered. Steph said, "We hope that by doing this training it will help make people think about what young carers lives can be like, and also raise awareness of the help and support which is out there for young carers to access." They have already successfully delivered the training in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr in Cardiff.

Blaenau Gwent teenagers speak out on child poverty

Two members from the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum took part in an event we hosted at the TUC Cymru annual conference in Llandudno to discuss child poverty in Wales. During the lunchtime event, Jessica Griffiths and Heidi Carter talked about the impact of poverty on children from their community.

Jessica said: "We live in a very close knit community and I believe there is a lot of talent here, although Blaenau Gwent is described as a deprived area. It was a great experience to travel to Llandudno to share our views.



Heidi (left) and Jess (right)

New Report calls on Welsh Assembly Government to Tackle Severe Child Poverty

Save the Children has called on the Welsh Assembly Government to act on behalf of the 90,000 children in Wales who live in severe poverty. The new report, *Children in severe poverty in Wales: an agenda for action*, was launched in March, and had a big impact in the media, being featured in a number of radio and television reports.

Anne Crowley, our Assistant Director for Policy and Research, said, "Child poverty is one of the greatest threats to the well-being of the people of Wales...we urge the Welsh Assembly Government to consider all these proposals very carefully and to establish its own 'Child Poverty Policy Unit' to take them forward."

To view and print the report go to <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/poverty-wales110308.pdf>

Volunteer interviewed on Afan FM

Becky Lewis, a volunteer with the Participation Unit, was interviewed on Neath Port Talbot's young people's radio station, Afan FM. Becky has been involved in inspecting the Participation Unit to see if they meet the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards.

She was interviewed on the hour-long Teen Voice show in May about this work. Becky talked about herself and her involvement with the Participation Unit and Save the Children. She directed the content of the show and had her own choice of songs played.

Eisteddfod 2008

If you are visiting this year's National Eisteddfod in Cardiff from 2nd to 9th August, make sure you visit Save the Children's stand. There will be opportunities to get involved in our work on child poverty in the UK, and on saving children's lives around the world.

Lord Mayor's Appeal

Congratulations to Anne Collins from Caerphilly branch, who was elected as Mayor for the County Borough of Caerphilly in May. Anne has been a member of the branch since 1969, and has kindly chosen to adopt Save the Children as her charity for the year. We would like to thank her very much for choosing Save the Children and wish her every success for her year in office.



Mayor of Caerphilly, Cllr Anne Collins with all members of the Caerphilly Branch and reps. from Save the Children

Local teenagers go global

Two teenagers from Wales were chosen to represent the UK at Save the Children's first ever Global Youth Panel in London in March. Suleman Ragi from Cardiff and Gareth Lewis from Caerphilly joined representatives from a number of countries where Save the Children UK works around the world.



Members of the Global Youth Panel

The Global Youth Panel is a new initiative set up to allow children and young people to express their opinions about the way the charity works. During their time in London they met with the organisation's Board of Trustees and senior managers and gave a presentation to staff in Head Office.

Refugee Week Wales Art Competition

An eleven-year old boy from Ysgol Aberporth in Ceredigion won this year's Refugee Week Wales Art Competition, which is funded by Save the Children. Tommy Lewis' artwork, entitled 'United to make a nicer world' will be used to publicise next year's Refugee Week, an annual festival of events. Tommy said, "I feel very happy that I have won this competition. My picture is all about people joining hands to show friendship and kindness towards each other. I want everyone around the world to be friends".

Children across Wales were invited to design an image representing refugee issues and reflecting the ways that people and communities can come together. The winners of the competition were announced at a ceremony in the National Assembly for Wales and presented with their prizes by Dr Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.

Dr Gibbons said: "This competition is a great way of promoting a culture of welcome in Wales... The competition prize winners should be very proud of the achievement in designing a picture that represents the ways that different people and communities can come together positively." The winning posters, along with many of the other entries, were displayed at the Neuadd in the Senedd building in Cardiff Bay.



Dr Brian Gibbons, Hawar Ameen, Eleri Thomas and all six winners.

Save the Children Week 2008

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Save the Children week, raising thousands of pounds for our vital work with children here and around the world. New to this year's activities were the 'Go Tea Potty' and 'Giant Toy Sale' events. Staff from **IKEA Cardiff** held 2 tea parties – 1 with staff and 1 with customers. Together, they raised £565.49. A big thank you goes out to Sara Pratt and her colleagues for their efforts. Other highlights this year included: **Aberdare Branch** raising £1,475 through collections in their community; **Cardiff Branch** raised £415 through a store collection and holding a Toy Sale. **Caerphilly Branch** raised £425 through a coffee morning. **Porthcawl branch** raised £501 through a soup and dessert morning as well as £370 through a street collection.

Other fundraising highlights

Swansea Branch: As part of the branch's 50th year celebrations, a Fundraising Ball was held at the Liberty Stadium on May 17th. The event was a fantastic success and raised over £12,000. **Penarth Branch:** Fresh from raising £600 through a jazz night during Save the Children Week, the branch held their annual Summer Ball in the Masonic Hall, Penarth, raising over £7,000. **Haverfordwest Group:** Our former branch members in Haverfordwest continue to make huge efforts for Save the Children. This year, they raised over £3,000 through picking and selling daffodils - a huge contribution from such dedicated supporters. **Women in Wales Lunch:** This year's lunch was another major success which raised a little over £44,000. Next year's event is already set for April 24th and will be part Save the Children's 90th year celebrations. **Aberdare Branch:** Aberdare branch held a race evening earlier this year. Organisers setup a makeshift bookmakers and guests tried their luck over an evening of pre-recorded races along with drinks and refreshments. In total, the event made an impressive £1,500.

For further information see our website at <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/wales> or email walesinfo@savethechildren.org.uk