

About Wales

September 2010

FAST tracking pupils' education in Caerphilly

Upper Rhymney primary school in Caerphilly is the first in Wales to take part in an international programme aimed at helping young children and families get more out of education. Save the Children has carried out a pilot project of the Families and Schools Together (FAST) initiative at the school. The scheme for families and their three to five-year-old encourages them to perform everyday tasks together such as sharing a family meal, playing games and spending one on one time with each other.



As well as taking part in group activities, families have also been introduced to other mums and dads in their communities. There was a graduation ceremony for the 17 families involved at the school in July to mark the end of the eight weeks' training but the group will continue to meet for the next two years, supported by Save the Children.

Headteacher Mr Jonathan Lloyd said: "We believe that a strong relationship between school and family is hugely important. FAST has enabled us to strengthen our commitment to the children and families in our community.

The FAST work in Caerphilly was part funded by a generous donation from the Caerphilly Lord Mayors Fund, via the Save the Children Caerphilly Branch.

For more information on our FAST programme please contact m.chapple@savethechildren.org.uk

Splashing out in aid of charity

The very successful 'Paddle for Life' event was held on 21 August on Newton Beach, Porthcawl and raised over £5,000. It was a fun day out for all the family including a sponsored raft race, surfing, kayaking and beach games while raising money and making a difference to children's lives here in Wales and worldwide. 'Paddle for Life' is the brainchild of Lee Garbett, proprietor of Quest Adventures in Porthcawl who hopes that it will develop to become an annual event.

Quest Adventures have already collected thousands for the charity through various fundraising events. Lee Garbett also visited the Save the Children programme in South Africa to see for himself how money raised here in Wales goes a long way to help vulnerable children.

"It was a phenomenal experience to visit the schools and clinics and see the amazing work that Save the Children is doing out there. That is what fundraising is about and I saw for myself how our money can make a difference to the lives of these children and communities."

For more information about fundraising contact i.evans@savethechildren.org.uk



Save the Children

Achub y Plant

Flying a kite for children's rights at the Eisteddfod

Save the Children's stand at the National Eisteddfod in Blaenau Gwent proved very popular with lots of children and their families coming along to make kites to show their support of our EVERY ONE campaign. our biggest-ever global campaign to prevent over nine million children under the age of five from dying of easily preventable diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. On 5 August we then had a mass flying of the kites on the Blaenau Gwent Council man-made beach on the Eisteddfod field.



We have a key role in ensuring that every child and young person has rights, no matter where they live. These include access to services such as clean water, food, education and health, protection from exploitation, violence, neglect and abuse and the right to have a voice in decisions that affect them. Children living in Wales are also denied their rights. Nearly 1 in 3 children live in poverty in Wales which means that their families have to make tough choices between heating and eating.

Andrew Chalinder, Head of Save the Children in Wales said: "This summer, we are encouraging thousands of children and families to fly a kite to support the EVERY ONE campaign in festivals all over the UK. The stall has been a hive of activity throughout the week with children making their kites and writing messages in them for the campaign."

To support our campaign visit savethechildren.org.uk



A young supporter with her kite

New booklet informing young Gypsies and Travellers of their rights

Save the Children has produced a new booklet to help young Gypsies and Travellers understand their rights. The booklet was produced together with young Gypsy Travellers, is aimed at 11 to 18 year olds and gives information on the rights they have in education, help available if they are bullied at school; their rights on how their homes, family life and culture should be respected by others and their rights regarding the police and health care.



Sam, 13 said: "Most Gypsies don't know their rights and this booklet can tell us what we can do and what we can have. It's important to show that we're not different to everyone else and that we have the same rights. We learnt a lot and had fun designing it and helped choose the colours for the banner on the cover." The booklet is part of Save the Children in Wales' 'Travelling Ahead' project funded by BBC Children in Need and the Wales Assembly Government.

For more information contact j.davies@savethechildren.org.uk

Recycle and Save



Merched y Wawr have nominated Save the Children as their appeal charity of the year for 2010 - 2011. Members of Merched y Wawr will be collecting old mobile phones and used ink cartridges which will then be recycled to raise life-saving funds for Save the Children. If you would like to support the appeal and donate an old mobile phone or ink cartridge(s) please contact Merched y Wawr's head office, 01970 611661.

Wales Poverty Summit

It is unbelievable and unacceptable that, in 2010, thousands of children in Wales still live in poverty. Save the Children in Wales is working with three groups of 'Young Ambassadors', aged 8-17, to design, plan and hold their own Wales Poverty Summit in the City Stadium in Cardiff on Friday 12th November 2-5pm.

At the Summit, the Young Ambassadors will be:

- Presenting children and young people's views on poverty in Wales and their key messages about this.
- Showcasing examples of their work on 'inspiring change' and their own local solutions to child poverty.
- Showing how they have been involved in the planning and delivery of a local Child Poverty Strategy.
- Campaigning for ending child poverty and calling for what they think needs to change in policy and practice in both Wales and the UK.

For more information about the summit please contact

walespovertysummit@savethechildren.org.uk

Flying the Kitemark

Wales' first-ever National Children and Young People's Participation Kite-mark was launched at a special event held at the Cefn Lea Centre in Newtown, Powys in May. The Participation Unit, based at Save the Children in Wales, hosted a one-day event to raise awareness of children and young people's participation in decision-making on all matters that affect their lives.

Huw Lewis, Deputy Minister for Children said: "It's important in a modern Wales that children and young people have their voices heard. The new national Kitemark provides a great way for children and young people to get involved, participating in the key decisions which affect their lives." The event was funded by the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Making the Connections Fund' and the 'Reach the Heights' European Social Fund project.

For more information please contact r.horder@savethechildren.org.uk



TAKE A STEP

This October 2 -10 is the week of our new fundraising idea - being sponsored for every step you take. Children all over the world have to walk miles for food, water or shelter. In the UK and abroad, children have to take tough steps every day just to survive. Your help is vital for them.

Take a Step is a great way to keep fit while raising money for a worthy cause.

walk to work (and home again) , count your steps at the gym, step on the dance floor , walk or jog during your lunch break , count your child's steps , run laps of your local sports field , hop on the spot , skip , make it a sociable event with friends

Once you've registered and received your pedometer you can download a sponsorship form and a how to guide to help you get started.

For more information and to register visit <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/take-a-step.htm>

Golden Girl at Llantwit Major Ladies Luncheon

Olympic cyclist and gold medallist, Nicole Cook spoke at Llantwit Major Branch's sell-out ladies luncheon at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge on 28th June 2010. Nicole regaled the audience with stories of competing in the Beijing Olympics 2008 and shared her experiences of competing at the top. Llantwit Major Branch Chair, Julie Lloyd said, "Everyone had a wonderful day and we were thrilled to have Nicole join us and share her Olympic experiences."



Nicole Cook with members of the Llantwit Major branch

Wales first national Child Poverty conference

A National Child Poverty Conference – the first of its kind in Wales – was held at Cardiff City Football Stadium on Thursday 27 May. The conference was a opportunity to debate how best to take action to reduce child poverty in Wales. Keith Towler, Children's Commissioner for Wales chaired the discussions and key speakers included Deputy Minister for Children, Huw Lewis. The new phase of the ground breaking Child Poverty Solutions project was launched at the Conference with a focus on reaching a wider range of public bodies including health and education. The project is developed by Save the Children in Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association and supported by the Welsh Assembly Government. It is aimed at assisting local authorities and other public bodies to take action to combat child poverty in their communities. childpovertysolutions.org.uk

Colorfoto Fundraise for Save the Children for Second Year



Cardiff based schools and events photography company, Colorfoto, have raised the phenomenal amount of £1363 for Save the Children. The business nominated Save the Children as their charity of the year for the second year running and raised funds by hosting fundraising parties where they screened the 6-Nations rugby games. Save the Children Fundraiser, Jess Evans said, " We are very grateful to the staff and customers of Colorfoto for their generosity and support".

If your company is interested in supporting us please contact j.evans@savethechildren.org.uk

Better Odds at School Campaign

Despite continued political commitment to close it, the gap between rich and poor children doing well at school remains in Welsh classrooms, There is a link between levels of deprivation at home and a child's academic achievement in the classroom with those on free school meals far less likely to achieve five A*- C grades than their wealthier classmates. .

As part of the 'Better Odds' campaign, Save the Children in Wales is calling for:

- National and Local Authorities' child poverty strategies to include targets and resources to improve the educational opportunities and learning experiences of the poorest children.
- The Welsh Assembly Government to target additional funding for the poorest pupils in Wales.
- Investment in evidence based parenting programmes and activities for children in the most deprived areas

Andrew Chalinder, Head of Save the Children in Wales says: "Poverty severely damages the prospects of many children. It's not fair that many do worse and have less confidence in their own ability to achieve their dreams."

TAKE ACTION →

Save the Children is calling on people to sign up to the online petition by visiting

www.savethechildren.org.uk/betterodds

Cardiff Cleverest Company

Wendy Hopkins Family Law took the title of Cardiff's cleverest company at a fantastic quiz night at the Swalec Stadium on June 30th organised by Cardiff Young Professionals fundraising group. The event was sponsored by Greenfield Media and the compere for the evening was Real Radio's Chris Moore. The event raised over £750.

greenfield