creative SUPPORT

newsletter

December 2011

Photos from recent events!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Throughout December, Creative Support staff and service users have been celebrating the festive season by throwing fun filled parties, with scrumptious meals and entertainment for all. From Christmas carols to dancing to the cha cha slide, there has not been a dull moment at any of the regional celebrations! Events were held in **Manchester, Morecambe, Warrington, London, Scunthorpe, West Berks, Halifax, Leeds, the Midlands, the North East** and **Cumbria.**

Festival of Trees

Lindsey Lodge Hospice invited Scunthorpe and different organisations to take part in the Festival of Trees to decorate a tree in a theme that embodies what they represent. There was a surge of true Christmas spirit at the festival. Beautifully decorated trees assembled in one place for everyone to enjoy. Creative Support's tree was titled '**What Support Means to Us**'. *"It was a lovely white tree with blue ribbon wrapped around it, with matching gorgeous blue baubles."*

Creative Christmas

A service user from Darlington has been working hard by making her own Christmas tree decorations! She made baubles, pompom decorations and salt dough ornaments. Making your own Christmas decorations can be helpful for saving money and expressing your creativity! The total cost for the tree was kindly donated by Creative Support. The results were amazing!

World AIDS Day 1st December

Every year World Aids Day is marked on **1st December**. Established in 1988, the event aims to bring people together to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS, tackle prejudice and raise money for charity. At Creative Support, we were asking people to make a donation to George House Trust which supports people living with HIV and AIDS. See **www.worldaidsday.org** for more information on HIV and AIDS and fundraising ideas.

Love Film?

Then come along to Creative Support's new film making group. The first session is set to be held on 19th January 2012. Call **Ben Thomas** at Head Office on **0161 236 0829** or email **ben.thomas@creativesupport.co.uk** for more information.

Women's Day

On Tuesday 6th December Creative Support raised awareness of the **'16 Days of Action'** campaign against gender violence. Our South Manchester Women's project held a conference. Women from different project's flocked to the GMCVO to enjoy a day of presentations, workshops and the opportunity to share personal experiences with each other.

Want to see your story here, or have any comments? Email marketing@creativesupport.co.uk

Parr Mount Court

Tenants and staff at Parr Mount Court have been counting down to Christmas by taking part in a range of activities and day trips, including tree decorating, a bacon sandwich breakfast club, a festive trip to Bury market where lots of black pudding was bought and eaten and a Christmas card making session! Parr Mount Court's Christmas party was also a great success with fabulous dinner, a professional singer and lots of dancing. **All the tenants have really enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit.**

Knit and Natter

On the 9th of December service users from across Bury participated in a **'knit and natter' timebank event** at Beech House. Ann and Samantha shared their knowledge of knitting, and jewellery making, with other service users and staff members. Participants practised knitting squares that can be sewn together to make a blanket and made beautiful necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Everyone was also very well fed, as Beech House staff prepared a delicious hot pot for everyone to enjoy. Susan, a service user from Beech House said *"even though I was slow at knitting, I really appreciated the chance to have a go. It was a really enjoyable event."*

Cultural Day

On 25th November Ewart House in Harrow held a cultural day to celebrate the **different cultures of the tenants and staff** who live and work there. The day was packed with activities including henna tattoos and dancing. There were fashion parades showcasing traditional dress from various countries in Africa and Asia, an Indian welcome table, a stall selling Filipino crafts and another featuring African artefacts. For lunch, a banquet of world foods was served for everyone to sample the different dishes.

The day was a great success, enjoyed by all tenants, staff and families, friends and neighbours. Anthony, a tenant, said *"I've had a great time. I did the music and everyone danced"*. Alex, a neighbour supported by another provider told us *"I really enjoyed meeting new people and learning about different places, I would love to come to the next event"*.

New contracts

Warwickshire
We have been awarded the contract for 2 extra care schemes in Warwickshire. We will be providing care and accommodation for up to 24 adults with a learning disability.

Rochdale
We have been awarded a preventive floating support service for adults with a learning disability in Rochdale. This is our first service for adults who have a learning disability in Rochdale.

Warrington
Adding to our existing services in Warrington, we will be providing an individual package to support a gentleman with mental health needs in Warrington.

Bolton
We have also successfully gained a place on Bolton Supported Housing Frameworks for adults with a learning disability and/or mental health needs.

Volunteer Award

Congratulations to Gerry Burke! This week he became the first service user to achieve the **Creative Communities Bronze Award** for volunteering. Gerry has volunteered 100 hours at various local nature projects. To sign up for the award scheme and receive a stamp card, please contact Harriet Knowles at Head Office on **0161 236 0829** or email **harriet.knowles @creativesupport.co.uk.** Please note that external volunteers are eligible to participate in the scheme, as long as they only log hours that they are volunteering with Creative Support.

1 Million Meal Appeal

Last month, Creative Support encouraged service users and staff to support the FareShare '1 Million Meal Appeal' by volunteering in Sainsbury's stores across the country. **FareShare** is a charity which supports communities across the UK to relieve food poverty.

Stuart South took part by telling shoppers all about the good cause and collecting donations of groceries. He filled five trolleys with food! Well done Stuart!

Children in Need

A big well done to the staff and service users at Belle Vue Grove for raising over £50 for **Children in Need**! They raised the money by holding a pyjama party where they sold cakes and had a raffle!