



**Helping vulnerable families
to a brighter future
since 1988**

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With our deepest Condolences to the Cadbury family



The time has come for us to say farewell to Anne Cadbury OBE JP DL who served as our President for over thirty years, since the conception of The Family Haven in 1988.

Throughout those years, she championed our cause and helped to spread the word about the valuable services we provide some of the County's most vulnerable families. She also passed on her great knowledge with regards to applying for funding from many charitable trusts and foundations.

With failing health and decreased mobility, Anne decided the time was right to give up her role a couple of years ago. We would like to send our deepest condolences to her family.

R.I.P. Anne

Gloucester City Association Football Club



Gloucester City Manager James Rowe and City midfielder and Community officer Fabien Robert from Gloucester City AFC came to visit The Family Haven Charity Centre on the 18th December. After a tour of the centre, they presented Deputy Manager Lucy Pearce and Family Support Worker Gail Jones with a cash donation and Gloucester city football tops for the children in the nursery on behalf of the Football Club.

Deputy Centre Manager Lucy Pearce *"It was great to see James and Fabien this morning. We are very grateful for their kind donation and will be using the money for our next day trip."*

We hope that this will be the start of a future partnership with them.
Gloucester City AFC website: www.gloucestercityafc.com

Thank you

We would like to put on record a huge **THANK YOU** to all the companies, groups and individuals who donated this Christmas, we were so lucky. We received new toys for the children, lovely gifts for the parents, food for our Christmas lunch, many treats for the families and to everyone who donated and raised funds. There are too many people to mention individually so I am not going to try.

Patron: Roger Head

Chairman:
John Price

Deputy Chair:
Vacant

Treasurer:
Gerald Holyhead

Trustees:
Joanne Collinson
John Orchard
Dr. Brian Lehaney
Ryan Miessner

Vacancy—if you are interested in becoming a Trustee we have a vacancy, please contact us.
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Snow Day 18th December 2019



We were invited by Gloucester Bid to take a group of 15 children to a store that they have decorated for Christmas with snowy trees, they had made a huge rectangular soft play floor which was covered in fake snow! We were greeted by a very friendly elf. I could see they were very eager to get in. It was so magical watching them explore this whole room of snow. It was beautifully set up for their age. A snow blower was set up over the one end, which every once in a while would spring into life with a massive whoosh of snow. This would cover the entire room. Children's Christmas music was playing in the background, there were snowmen in each corner which they decided to dress up with our hi visibility jackets. Watching the Children's delightful expressions when looking all around at the snow covered room, the trees lined with

frosted tops and the little white picket fence that brought happy security that they were unaware of. The fascination every time a new song came on and they were able to glide and dance without any need to be spatially aware for once, also watching the Elf sing and dance while throwing snow in the air. It made for a wonderful experience. Unfortunately, this didn't work, but was a very kind gesture. Eventually we had to leave, the children were very reluctant to go, but we made it out in good time for the next group of children to have their turn. We all thanked the Elves very much. We talked of nothing else all the way back to nursery. What a magical way to spend an afternoon.



Nursery Christmas Party Days 2019



We held our annual two Christmas parties at the end of term. The children on the first party day were mostly tots and toddlers. These older children were able to participate in activities such as icing and decorating Christmas biscuits, and playing with wind-up Santa and reindeer toys to race across the frozen pond of foil! The children were able to take part in snowman skittles as well as potato printing to make many different Christmas tree bauble effect pictures. These were popular. The staff set up a lovely icy small world area, where the Christmas train could whizz by and the penguins came out to play. The children played so well together, enjoying their music and spending time at each activity station. They all enjoyed a lovely hot Christmas dinner, which we served up while they were singing 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. The children in general eat well, but they completely finished off all the food from the trolley! We do feed them each day, honestly! The feel in the room was very special, they all joined in with singing and playing with the Christmas themed toys, the boys really did get a little competitive with the wind-up racing. It was a joy to see.

The second party was a little quieter. We had lots of babies, especially over the lunch period to ensure their parents were able to enjoy a peaceful dinner with their peers. The baby room was set up with small sensory play items and an eating area. Luckily, we had reinforcements in the way of three volunteers to help. Doreen, who is a retired trustee and is now a friend of The Family Haven, kindly gave her time for both party lunches. We also had two ladies from Ecclesiastical that gave their time. Both really got stuck in to help the children enjoy their activities, from painting to making beautiful biscuits. They did enjoy exploring their desserts, using their hands to discover the feel of jelly and cream. Father Christmas came to visit at both parties. The children sat in awe at his character. Parents were eager to take photos of their children when they receive their gift from him. This is quite a performance. Father Christmas then made his goodbyes and we all wave and thank him for coming to see us. The children have such a great experience, we all enjoy these parties and we take a little comfort in hoping that we have helped to make their Christmas a bit more special.



Parenting—Arts & Crafts



Venture came in to do two more sessions of art therapy. This time they made exploding boxes. Dawn briefly explained what the parents needed to do and showed the materials on offer. The parents soon joined in, one parent adapted her box so it had photographs of her children in it, giving it a very personal touch. She is hoping to attend Ventures session in the future in a local

venue. All the boxes were lovely and the parents clearly enjoyed themselves. It is quite a simple activity which gives impressive results thus improving self-confidence and self-esteem in the parents.



Gail made pompoms with the parents in preparation for the visit from Venture. We used the pompom making kits which none of us had used before so it was quite a learning curve. All of the parents were willing to have a go and we managed to get 20 made which was pretty good. The parents continued making the pompoms the next day with the parents who had made them before explaining to the new mums how to do it. There was lots of laughter and chatter in the parent's respective languages. The atmosphere was relaxed and another 40 pompoms were made, including some which a mum had made at home. The parents continued on the Thursday as well independently which was lovely.

Venture came in on the 4th December and made wreaths with the parents using all the pompoms the parents had made previously. It was a very simple activity but produced some beautiful wreaths. The parents shared ideas and helped each other to make their own wreaths and suggested colours for another client's wreath who was unable to stay. Two of the parents asked to make a second wreath because they enjoyed making them.



Parents Christmas Party Days 2019



We held two Christmas party days for the families on the 17th and 19th December. These were well attended with 16 families attending one day and 13 families attending the other. The parents spent the morning playing bingo and taking part in the raffle. They all had fun and there was much laughter from the parent's lounge. The parents then enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch which was prepared by Jackie and cooked by Lucy. Staff and volunteers served the lunch and helped with the clearing up. Whilst the parents were having fun the children were enjoying Christmas activities in the nursery. The parents then sat with their children in nursery and watched as their child collected a present from Santa. The parents returned upstairs to collect their child's main gift and a bag

of goodies for them. Several of the parents were quite overwhelmed by the party, food and all the presents, but very grateful and kept thanking the staff.



Farewell to Doreen McLellan as our Trustee



After fifteen years of supporting The Family Haven, Doreen McLellan has retired from The Board of Governors. Doreen has been a long serving Trustee who was also the nominated Early Years person for the nursery. Doreen has visited and supported everyone with particular interest in sharing her wisdom and providing advice to the early year's team, as Doreen's long career was as an outstanding childminder. We would like to thank Doreen for all the time she has given us, her dedication to visiting each week and supporting everyone. Doreen has become a Friend of The Family Haven and has taken over chairing the parent forums. However she hasn't got away from us just yet, which we are very grateful for.

Welcome



The Family Haven would like to welcome Ryan Miessner as our new Trustee.

In other News

Parkview carols:

We have been learning lots of Christmas songs this term and went to Parkview to share these with our friends who live there. We stood very nicely and joined in with lots of the words and actions in our very first Christmas carol services. Our friends from St Pauls playgroup were there too and we gave the residents of Parkview lots of smiles. At the end, some of us even took a bow and we received a big round of applause. After our performance we had some yummy Christmas treats with our friends and then enjoyed a very special visit from Father Christmas. These opportunities help us to build relationships within our communities and are a fun way for us to develop our self-confidence.

A huge highlight was being awarded £30,000 from the Thomas Cook Children's Charity. We had made the application but feared it wouldn't get approved when Thomas Cook went into liquidation. We were thrilled when the news came, this will help us reach our income budget.

BBC children in need also came to look around and do an interview for this year's Children in Need appeal.

Eliot Hyde from Hyde Tech came for a show around to find see first-hand what we do and to meet some of the staff and clients. He also presented us with a cheque for £1,000 towards our work. He seemed very impressed with our services and invited us to let him know if there is some other way he could be of help.

Having been awarded a grant for £7,182 from Gloucester Council – Thriving Communities fund. Debbie Marks contacted us as she also wanted to come in for a visit.

We had a visit from South Gloucester, who came to do some filming around the centre and interviewed some of the staff and parents to showcase our work.



We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to David McShee, Company Director of HB Digital Printing Ltd, for the excellent printing of all our Newsletters and Annual reviews over the past few years.

Also David we thank you for the £292.00 which you raised for us from sales of your Christmas cards.

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Why become a Friend? As a Friend of The Family Haven you will be supporting the trustees and staff in helping provide the services our families so desperately need. Your regular subscriptions and offers of voluntary help are invaluable and support us in delivering our aims.

Call 01452 422971 for an application form or download it from <http://bit.ly/YtnESd>



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