

Coffee and Chat



Gail, our Outreach and Family Support Worker was going to Coffee and Chat with Lysons Hall and Church of England Primary School which was going well. Gail was really enjoying being back there once a week and seeing some of the mums that were there before as well as meeting a new mum with three-week-old twins. Gail began a personal development session to be run once a month with the families there. They are similar to what we do here at The Family Haven for our parents but on a smaller scale. The hope was that this would increase the number of families we are helping as well as demonstrating the impact of the outreach project. Resuming the outreach project also gave us an opportunity to apply for a small grant for two of our families to replace essential white goods that have broken. I am pleased to say that we were successful with both applications.

Sadly, in late November Coffee and Chat took the decision to suspend the group meetings due to the rising Covid cases in the area. We hope it will be safe to resume the meetings in the spring.

Prosser Knowles joins Corporate Partnership Scheme



We're delighted to announce that Prosser Knowles are the first company to join our new Corporate Partnership Scheme. Prosser Knowles, a financial planning and wealth management company have committed to a £5000 annual donation over the next two years. There will be opportunities for staff at the company to volunteer, attend events and to fund-raise.

In addition to the recently agreed funding, Prosser Knowles have already:

- supplied Advent Calendars in December for the children in the nursery
- hosted a Christmas Jumper day with all proceeds going to The Family Haven,
- donated deposits from a team Christmas meal that didn't go ahead,
- hosted the tea room at Colesbourne Park on 30th January, raising a total profit of £1,223.98 over the course of the weekend. Colesbourne Gardens is the premier place to see the snowdrops in bloom as well as an arboretum of rare trees privately collected over the past 120 years.

Vanessa Coates, Financial Planning Consultant said: "We're delighted to be the first company to join their new corporate partnership scheme, helping them to continue to put smiles back on those most in need and helping families to get back on their feet."

Lucy Pearce, Centre Manager of the Family Haven said: "We are so pleased to be chosen as Prosser Knowles first charity partner. The support comes at a crucial time for vulnerable families as we continue to see the number of families needing our support increase.

"We look forward to working with Prosser Knowles so we can continue to support our families and to help them move towards a brighter future."

You'll find more information about Prosser Knowles on www.prosserknowles.co.uk



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

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Autumn half term family trip to Roves Farm 2021



We organised a trip in October half term to Roves farm in Swindon. Roves farm is a wonderful place with lots of activities to do from seeing and holding the animals, tractor rides and soft play and bouncy castles. We left slightly earlier than normal and stayed a bit later so that the families could have more time there. This was something that was raised at the last client forum. The weather was mostly dry with a few showers here and there, but it didn't put our families off.

14 adults and 34 children attended and lots of fun was had both indoors and out. When we arrived at the farm, many of the families took shelter from the rain by going straight into the soft play barn. The children excitedly ran straight for the huge slide.



Whilst many of the parents sat down together to watch their children playing, some families decided to brave the rain in their warm coats and wellies, to meet the animals. We were able to meet the sheep, goats, pigs and the lovely Shetland ponies. Some children were lucky as they got to meet and hold rabbits and guinea pigs. Lots of children eagerly queued for the Halloween tractor ride where they were given magical wands so they could help find the spooky spiders on their journey round the farm.



Before the day came to an end, many of the mummies and babies were enjoying the baby soft play area. It was lovely to see them exploring the little house and climbing the mini slides. The coach ride back was predictably, very quiet as everyone was tired from spending the day playing and enjoying themselves even if the weather was not the best. It was another adventurous day, where everyone found things to do, animals to see and areas to play.



Breakfast Club



We were successful with an application from the Aviva Community Fund to support a new project at the Family Haven. With the help of Aviva, we set up our first ever Crowdfunding page and asked the local community to pledge their support and help us raise funds to provide a breakfast club for disadvantaged families living with food insecurity. With many of our families experiencing food poverty, having difficulty accessing food they can afford and experiencing food insecurity. We at The Family Haven wanted to support our families by providing a daily breakfast for the vulnerable families who attend our day centre.

Our Crowdfunder page opened for donations in October. Not only did our supporters pledge money Aviva gave all its employees £25 to pledge to a project that turns into donations. We aimed to raise £1,250 to make this project a reality but the support from everyone far exceeded our expectations. The crowdfunding page raised £4,103 and with an additional contribution from the Langtree Trust of £250 we raised a grand total of £4,353 more than enough money to pilot our project.

The breakfast club officially opened in January and has brought our clients in to the centre early. Many of the parents are still getting used to getting breakfast in the morning while others are planning what they will have tomorrow! The fruit and cereals have been the most popular so far although lots of discussion around the breakfast table has prompted a few healthy eating sessions for other options.

Christmas Party 2021



We were asked to be one of Gloucester County Councils Christmas Activity Providers. This is part of the HAF (Holiday, Activity, and Food) or HAP (Holiday and Activity) program. They gave us a grant for our Christmas party to include hiring a venue, entertainment, food, and crafts. The families that attended took home their gifts from Santa, supplied by the staff at the Imjin Barracks in Innsworth as well as the additional craft and food packs supplied by Gloucester County Council.

This was a larger event than normal for us. We usually host our Christmas parties in house over two days for the parents and their preschool children. This time it was very nice for us to also be able to include the older siblings as there was more room.

The party was held at The Club at Tuffley Park and was attended by 21 adults and 51 children. Gail's husband Steve very kindly offered his time to drive a big red bus to the venue for our families. The bus had been specially decorated for Christmas and was looking very festive. Elf Ben and Katren supervised the families on the short trip where they met up with the rest of the staff. As many of our families do not drive this was a great help.



It was a very busy day with lots of fun and games with Alex our DJ where the children also enjoyed dancing, arts and crafts supervised by the staff as well and toys and games. We had a special visit by Ralph the Elf and Father Christmas made time to pop in to see the children to give them all a token gift. Gloucester County Council also provided the families with three food bags containing meal kits to see them through the holidays. This was greatly appreciated by our families as Christmas can be a very stressful time, especially when money is tight. All in all everyone including the staff had a great time.



Gail, our Family Support Worker has been busy with the Personal Development Classes. The clients have been very creative, doing sewing, canvas painting and jewellery making. Both Katren, our cook and Gail collaborated on a six-week timetable for the winter and Christmas activities for the parents and children which began in November. They put together some Santa sweet cones and reindeer hot chocolate to take home for free. Other activities such as sweet making and large meal budgeting were included.



Charity event at Colesbourne Gardens



We had a wonderful weekend at [Colesbourne Gardens](#) on 29th and 30th January. The snowdrops were blooming, the sun was shining and we raised a fantastic amount of £1223,98 for the Family Haven. We would like to thank Sir Henry and Lady Carolyn Elwes for inviting us to serve teas and help raise much needed funds for The Family Haven over the weekend.

We would also like to thank our volunteers who helped us on Saturday and Sunday serving tea and cake, including Prosser Knowles, Theresa Fisher, the Community Champion at Tesco's in Quedgeley, Savannah Lewis, the Community Champion at Morrison's, our Trustees, John Orchard and Asya Pandor and all of our volunteers who helped on the day and baked cakes to be sold.

And, of course, we would like to thank all the lovely people who came for tea and cake! Our volunteers worked very hard both days to serve over 400 teas & coffees with cake. Liz Gough, The Fundraiser at the Family Haven said: "It was a fantastic weekend and we're delighted to raise over £1,220 for the Family Haven and to spread awareness of the important work that we do in the community."



Leave a Legacy



Imagine the difference you can make

Did you know that legacies are a vital source of income for charities? To find out more about leaving a gift in your will we have a page on our website with information we hope is useful:

Quote for the month

***"Compliment People.
Magnify their Strengths,
Not their weaknesses."***

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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