



Newsletter



Dodging the Rain!



October 2010

Number 9

Welcome to Outfit's 9th newsletter which comes as our Summer has now well and truly gone. We have had a really busy last few months, with our Summer Holiday programme almost completely full, and the term before the Summer holiday seeing us working with a wide range of different groups. In terms of our funding, it has been a positive period and we have secured sufficient funds to cover us into the next financial year. We have also been given a box trailer donated by a charity called eXtend which is fantastic news - read on for more details....



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Moray Housing Partnership Kids Beat the Holiday Blues with Outfit



During the Summer Holidays, Outfit ran a programme in conjunction with Moray Housing Partnership for 16 children of their tenants. The programme consisted of two sets of 3-day activity sessions, including rock climbing, abseiling, surfing, kayaking, archery and mountain biking. All of the young people threw themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm, and discovered that they could achieve things they never thought they would have been able to.

New Box Trailer

We would like to say a huge thank you to eXtend, the charitable arm of [people=positive](#) consultancy, who have donated a box trailer and a range of outdoor education equipment to us. The trailer will allow us to securely store and transport our kit, and we are extremely grateful to have been chosen as the recipient.

Outfit Purpose:

We engage young people through outdoor learning to support them to reach their potential

Summer Holiday Programme



Our Summer holiday programme was our most successful to date, with over 100 different young people taking part in 21 activities that ran throughout the 6 week holidays. Sessions included climbing, biking, archery, surfing, duckies, kayaking and bushcraft.

Our 2 week Tattie holiday programme is now under way - have a look at our website for more details.

Gordonstoun School

At the end of the summer term we were delighted to be asked to work with Gordonstoun School as part of their Year 12 End of Year Development Programme. This programme included personal development, International Citizenship and much more. We organised a range of activities including mountain biking, rock climbing, gorge swimming and coasteering, and ran seven sessions over the four days with 28 young people. We were blessed with good weather for most of the week, and the young people really enjoyed their experiences.



Funding Update



In the midst of savage cuts in the public sector and many reports in the national and local press of Third Sector Organisations struggling for funding, it has been a fairly uplifting time for us and our fundraising in what is usually a quiet time during the summer months.

We have attracted donations from The Gannochy Trust, The James Thin Charitable Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, MFR Cash for Kids, Paterson Logan Trust and The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust. We have also received year 2 funding from The Tudor Trust (part of a 3 year investment) and year 5 tranche from The Robertson Trust. A big thank you to all our funders.

Our thoughts now are firmly fixed on 2011-2012. We need over £190,000 annually to keep up our level of work with the young people of Moray. It is very challenging and all donations are very welcome indeed.

“Thank you for giving Luke such fun over the holidays. He has learnt lots and met some new friends too!”

Quote from parent after Summer Holiday programme

You're Never Too Old To Abseil!

Outfit was delighted to take three people from the Moray Council's Older People's Day Service abseiling at the local Cummington sea cliffs at the end of August.

The three abseilers, Pearl Fraser, Frances Cruickshank and Fred Pike who is 92, embarked on the challenge with a great sense of humour and enthusiasm, and everyone rose to the challenge.



Frances said "It was a wonderful day. I achieved far more than I thought I would. It is amazing what you can do when you try."

As Mike Heron who runs the day service explained: "People have misconceptions about what day centres are. This is proof of what can be done."

The idea came about when Pearl contacted Mike, saying she was stuck in a rut and wanted to do something more adventurous. Fred and Frances were soon to join in with the idea, and the trio managed to raise an amazing £825 for Outfit-Moray. The three intrepid abseilers have asked that the money they raised goes towards subsidising a programme we're running next term with Moray Young Carers, and for this we are extremely grateful.



Allegedly the group are now planning hot air ballooning, go karting and parachuting

Evaluation Update

Evaluation continues to be an integral part of everything that we do, helping us to ensure that we are making the biggest difference that we can to the lives of local young people. We are always trying new techniques, and during the last few months we have trialled self reflection and target setting as well as our usual evaluation methods.

"The impact it had on the young people was obvious. They grew in confidence and were able to transfer their new skills to the classroom and playground."

Feedback from teacher following an Active Steps Programme

Chairman's Chat

Our Annual Review this year was held at the Warehouse Theatre in Lossiemouth and the focus was all about the operational side of the business, exploring how we have progressed and what we can improve. We also celebrated some of the successes of the last year, in particular the recent summer holiday programme which was almost full and extremely varied.

We identified and reflected on our core strengths:

- We learn from experience.
- We value each other and the team.
- We are good at planning and organising.
- We are flexible in how we work.
- We continue to build a strong brand.
- The instructional team are very patient and skilled in working with young people.
- There is good risk management and leadership.
- Our evaluation processes are effective.
- Our financial management and fundraising strategy and capacity.



As for the future, the general consensus was that we should keep consolidating and doing what we do even better. We recognise that we need to:

- Improve the administration of our holiday programmes and give people the opportunity to pay on line.
- Ensure that there is better cover in the office during holiday periods.
- Improve the feedback from customers particularly with regard to expeditions.
- Clarify and review the charges for some programmes.
- Simplify some of our administration arrangements and carry out a full review of our policies and procedures.
- Improve the reception area of HQ to make it more friendly and welcoming.

In conclusion, we have had a very strong, positive year with an increasing number of enquiries and opportunities. We now look forward to our **Annual General Meeting which will be held at The Warehouse Theatre on Tuesday 23rd November at 6.30pm.**

Next Newsletter: January 2011

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