

# Foundation Newsletter

October 2017

## Welcome

Welcome to this special edition newsletter of the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children, which marks the launch of our 2017 **FUN**draising Campaign. The campaign, which runs from **2 October to 30 November** is designed to raise awareness and funds for the Foundation, to help us create Bright Spaces for disadvantaged children in our communities. Read on to learn more about our new partnership with Refuge, new Bright Space openings, and ways **YOU** can get involved and make a difference!



## Impact of Bright Spaces

Our partners tell us that they use their Bright Spaces in all sorts of ways: for formal play therapy, one to one support for traumatised children, play and relaxation for families, family visits and activities, Achieving Best Evidence interviews, family interventions, delivery of important family news, and baby bonding sessions.

In our 2017 Partner Survey:

**87%** said their Bright Space has a '**major impact**' on their organisation

**93%** said their Bright Space has a '**major impact**' on children and families

**100%** said they are '**very satisfied**' with the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children® as a partner

*"Our Bright Space provides a positive space for the delivery of services which are of great benefit to children and families; aiding family relationships and helping prevent re-offending and reduced violence [by fathers] whilst imprisoned."*

- Prison Bright Space Partner

## Want to know more?

The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children was established in the UK in 2005 to leverage the expertise and resources of Bright Horizons Family Solutions, to make a difference in our communities.

Our Bright Spaces are enriching play environments for children experiencing disadvantage in the UK, as a result of domestic violence, abuse, parental imprisonment and ill-health.

Visit our new and improved website [www.brightspaces.org.uk](http://www.brightspaces.org.uk) where you can find:

- More information about Bright Spaces
- Inspiration for both fundraising and practical activities to make a difference in your community
- Up to date news on our blog
- Case studies and impact reports
- Tips for talking to children about homelessness
- Ways to donate

If you have any questions please get in touch at [getinvolved@brighthorizons.com](mailto:getinvolved@brighthorizons.com)



# Bright Spaces

## 2017 Bright Space Openings

We are delighted to share that we have opened six new Bright Spaces so far in 2017, taking our total to 52.

Three Bright Spaces opened in prisons – at Wormwood Scrubs, Downview and Brixton. These spaces are designed to provide a welcoming, enriching and child-friendly environment for children who are visiting their relatives in prison. Children of offenders are among the most disadvantaged in our society, affected by poverty, mental health issues, and the social stigma associated with their circumstances. It is important for children to be able to maintain healthy relationships, to help them to overcome these challenges, and our Bright Spaces support this. Furthermore, maintaining relationships on the ‘outside’ has been found to reduce reoffending by 39%.



Wormwood Scrubs visits hall



In August we opened a Bright Space at the Eve domestic violence refuge in Northamptonshire. We consulted with the children living at the refuge and transformed the garden to reflect their wishes. The opening was celebrated with a garden party, and it was a joy to watch the children happily playing in their new outdoor kitchen, splashing in the water from their water wall and planting flowers and herbs in their growing planters. The Foundation benefited from a £12,000 Bags of Help grant from Tesco Groundworks for this project.

Pictured above left and right: the Eve refuge Bright Space Garden; pictured below left the Isleworth Crown Court Bright Space



In September we opened our first Bright Space in a Crown Court, in Isleworth. This Bright Space is used by children and families who are victims of crime, giving evidence in prosecutions, or reviewing their video evidence. This Bright Space was opened in memory of Joan Elms, a much loved Cook at the Bright Horizons Acorns BP Nursery, who sadly passed away.

Watch this space for more openings before the end of the year!





## Partnership with Refuge Announced

We are delighted to announce an extension of our partnership with Refuge, the domestic violence charity, to support more children who are victims of domestic violence. The Foundation has provided Refuge's outreach community workers with mobile Bright Space resources to provide enriching play opportunities for children of all ages, when their mothers are accessing outreach services in their communities.

The Bright Space in a Bag was developed in partnership with Refuge which, in 2016, supported nearly 7,500 women and children; 6,000 of whom accessed Refuge's outreach service, either by attending a meeting in an office or somewhere confidential and discreet in the community.

A top concern of Refuge is to ensure that, whenever possible, when an abused woman meets with her advocate to disclose or discuss the abuse, her children are not exposed to re-living the experience. Children are supported by a Child Support Worker, usually within sight of their mother. Resources are often needed to engage the children so that they can play and have fun, which gives their mothers the time and space to receive one-to-one support.

The Foundation's Bright Space in Bag resources provide age-appropriate toys, books, puzzles, games, art supplies and equipment for children to enjoy with their Support Workers. Ten crates of resources have been provided to Refuge's Support Workers across London, with backpacks, so that resources can be selected to suit the ages of the children being supported during each visit. It is hoped that the programme can be rolled out to other domestic violence services throughout the UK, should the programme pilot with Refuge be successful.

Refuge's chief executive Sandra Horley CBE says, *"Refuge is incredibly grateful to the Bright Horizons Foundation for its wonderful support. With as many as one in five children in the UK witnessing and experiencing domestic violence, it is essential that children are given the support and resources they need to overcome their experiences of abuse. The Bright Space in a Bag kits supply our child support workers with age appropriate resources to use with the children with whom they work. Given many children who escape violence come to our services with no more than the clothes they are wearing, this thoughtful kind gesture means a great deal. Thank you."*



Bright Spaces in Bags being prepared by the Bright Horizons Client Relations Team on their volunteer day

# 2017 Campaign Launches!



## FUNdraising Campaign 2017

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October sees the launch of our two month 2017 FUNdraising Campaign which runs until to 30<sup>th</sup> November. The campaign brings people together to raising awareness about our Bright Space programme, fundraise and have fun in the process, hence the 'FUN'draising! Last year we saw so much enthusiasm and generosity from Bright Horizons staff, families, suppliers, clients and partners; all of whom helped us to raise thousands of pounds and reach more children and families.

During the two month period of the campaign this year, we are aiming to raise £20,000, vital to opening more Bright Spaces, and sustaining those already open. We invite you to join us in making a difference to the lives of children and families who need it most in our communities.

There are many ways to get involved, from organising a Recycling Drive with our [Recycle for Good](#) programme, taking part in a [Walk On](#), organising a dress-up day or [making a donation](#). Be as simple, creative or adventurous as you like; it all adds up and makes a difference. For more ideas and information please visit the [Foundation website](#); you can also use the [Foundation's 2017 Just Giving page](#) to make fundraising easier.

Some employers match their employees' charitable donations – find out if this applies to you or donors to your fundraising activities, and apply to double your donations at no cost to you!

We'd love you to share your FUNdraising stories and pictures with us; please email them to [stories@brighthorizons.com](mailto:stories@brighthorizons.com) Thank you for supporting our campaign!



## Some of This Year's Fundraisers!



We are so grateful to everyone who has fundraised for us so far this year, and helped us to open new Bright Spaces and sustain those already open. Over £35,000 has been raised to date from marathons, 10K runs, O2 climbs, cycle rides, Walk Ons, cake sales, fetes, dress-up days, recycling drives, open water swims and raffles; we appreciate it all.

Pictured: top left the Heyland & Spratt South Downs cycling team; bottom left the children at Wellingborough Pre-prep School at their Walk On; and bottom right the Running for Lorraine London Vitality 10K team.



Thank You





## Brightening Lives

If you would like to do something practical to make a difference in your local community, visit the [Brightening Lives pages](#) of our website for inspiration. Whether it's Christmas gift collections for children in local refuges, food collections for a local foodbank, or back-to-school items for disadvantaged children; all acts of kindness brighten people's lives.

Following the Grenfell fire we co-ordinated donations to the victims. 36 Bright Horizons nurseries and offices collected over 100 boxes of toiletries, nappies, new underwear, and children's activities which were sent to the Tabernacle Christian Centre.



## Finally, Thank You!

As always, thank you so much for your support and helping us to make a difference! To stay up to date with our news and join our community, please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information please email [getinvolved@brighthorizons.com](mailto:getinvolved@brighthorizons.com)

