Impact Report 2016

Celebrating 10 years of The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children in the UK & Ireland

Bright Horizons FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

A message from Stephen

I am immensely proud as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children in Europe. Thank you to all of you who have been part of this inspiring journey to make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families in need.

At Bright Horizons, we are a community of carers. Whether caring for a child, a family, a client or a co-worker, the mission of compassion is an intrinsic part of what we do. But we also know that the mission doesn't end at the nursery door. The commitment to making a difference in our communities and to extend our mission to those in need makes Bright Horizons who we are.

Our Foundation for Children was created in 1999 by Bright Horizons colleagues in the USA, and our sister charities continue to work closely together, now helping a global total of over 100,000 children and families when they need us most.

Your donation of time, expertise and resources to the Foundation has given so much to so many. You have given a quiet, private place for a young teen coping with crisis to do homework. You have given siblings fleeing domestic violence a safe place to play and explore. You have given parents in a refugee centre a sense of security in turbulent times, and you have given some of the youngest victims of unspeakable crime a place to escape while their voice is being heard.

Together, Bright Horizons staff and families, clients, suppliers, and partners are working together to prove every day that ordinary people committed to a mission can do some truly extraordinary things.

We have achieved so much together, and together I know we will brighten many more lives and lift many more communities. I hope that you will be inspired by the stories in this impact report, as I am, and look forward to many more years of making a difference, together.

Stephen H Kramer
European Foundation Board Chairman
President, Bright Horizons

Mission statement

Our Charity is the **Bright Horizons Foundation for Children.** Our focus is to **improve the quality of life for children in our local communities** who are impacted by crisis and experiencing disadvantage. We work with community agencies to create **Bright Spaces** to provide children and families undergoing crisis and living in temporary accommodation – such as domestic violence shelters or refugee centres - with a place to play, learn, and have fun and most of all feel safe. These **safe, welcoming and enriching play environments** can provide comfort for children and families in their time of need and also help to ensure that the children experience the vital opportunities for play, learning and discovery which will equip them for best life chances in the future.

We believe...

- That every child has the right to a **happy childhood.**
- That every individual has the power to **change lives** and **make a difference.**
- That our **greatest assets** are the talents of our employees **working together** with our children, their families, our partners, clients and suppliers to make a difference to the lives of families in need.

Why Bright Spaces are needed

One million children in the UK are affected by repeat homelessness; one in 10 children lives in overcrowded households and has no access to safe play.

- **1.6 million** children in Britain live in housing that is over–crowded, temporary, or run-down. Some live in housing that's making them ill. (Shelter)
- **750,000** children are affected by domestic violence in the UK. Many of them will be at direct risk of physical violence, as well as the emotional damage that exposure to domestic violence does. (Women's Aid Annual Survey 3, Women's Aid, 2014)
- **100,000** children in the UK woke up homeless on Christmas day last year (Shelter)

Since 2005 we have established 50 Bright Spaces, with many more under development. Our partners have included Refuge, Women's Aid, Refugee Action, Her Majesty's Prison Service, The Metropolitan Police and local housing charities. Each Bright Space has its own story:

Our partners Refugee Action in Manchester say that our Bright Space in their waiting room brings "a ray of sunshine" to families while they wait to be seen, sometimes for hours on end and often having just arrived in the country. Our teen space in Livingstone Scotland offers sanctuary to young adults faced with an uncertain future: "The teen room in the refuge is a quiet chill out zone. It provides peace and quiet – a place young people can gather their thoughts and relax."

A nine month old baby came to a refuge with his mother fleeing abuse. The baby had witnessed extreme violence and would not be prized away from his mother, he clung to her 24 hours a day and the mother and child stayed within their room. Slowly staff coaxed the woman into the Bright Space family room. The baby continued to be wrapped around his mother but gradually started to show an interest in what the other children were doing. After many months of slow persuasion the baby finally got onto the floor and played with the other children. Without this Bright Space, this may never have happened.

From the Metropolitan police "We have been dealing with a very complex sexual abuse case where a number of children within a family have been victims. They all have differing degrees of learning difficulties. As such we arranged a number of familiarisation visits / rapport building sessions with them all at the Gilbert Suite before their actual interviews. They loved the suite, especially the family room. We were able to interview all three of them, after a number of visits and they all provided evidence that supports our ongoing investigation.

After having such poor facilities for so long, it was great to bring them to such welcoming and bright surroundings…and be able to utilise it to its full potential."

The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children in the UK and Ireland supports over 8,000 children who use our Bright Spaces. These Bright Spaces are only made possible because of the fundraising and passion of our nursery staff and families, our clients, contractors, and suppliers, and our supporters in our local communities. With your support we will continue to grow and reach more children and families: thank you for all that you do.

Bright Space Partners

Our Global Foundation now has almost 300 Bright Spaces serving **100,000 children and families** suffering crisis or disadvantage. Our heartfelt **thank you** to all of the hundreds of people who have supported our Foundation ; our Partners, volunteers, donors, clients, suppliers and contractors but mostly our our incredible staff who give up their time and without whose commitment and passion our Bright Spaces would not exist.

What our partners say...

The benefit of donations of clothes and other items is expressed by one of our clients who said,-

"you are sent from god, angels."

One of our volunteers reported a mother with a 1 year old baby who was given a toy –

"She smiled when picking out the clothes but when I gave her the toy, she was overjoyed. When you are destitute, food and clothing would be your first priority, toys last. My heart melted seeing the little girl's face light up when I gave her the toy. It shows that a kind act, donations of clothing, money, time or advice, can have a positive impact on those in need."

Victoria Sinclair, Deputy Manager – Development Refugee Action

Putney before

Putney after

Family Mosaic before

Family Mosaic after

"The Bright Spaces Project has enabled us to have a life changing impact on families with both large and small struggles. We have supported families in having their children returned to their care and sustain long term change, as well as assist families to do such things as tap into further education opportunities. The on going support available to us from the Bright Spaces Project has been invaluable. We have benefitted from volunteer help, Christmas and Easter gifts for families, socks for children, books to encourage reading and equipment to maintain the standard of service we can offer. Thank you for all you have done, and all you continue to offer to us."

Alex Walker Balsam Family Project Trustee and Manager

"Thanks for making a place of safety for children, some of whom may never have experienced what it feels like to feel safe before because their lives are so chaotic. You've given them an opportunity to create an anchor memory they can always come back to and try and recreate what other kids might consider normal."

Women's Resilience Centre

"Our Bright Space has completely changed the way families feel when they come to us for advice. Often worried about the incredibly complicated asylum process, families can face long waits to see a caseworker. Having a space for their children to play has been lovely. Thank you so much."

Refugee Action

Viva House before

Viva House after

Harringey before

Harringey after

"The work of Bright Horizons has truly impacted on the lives of abused children when being interviewed by the Met. The Bright Spaces provided assist our officers in keeping the children of London safe. We are proud to work with them on our journey to providing total victim care and making London safer for children."

Detective Sergeant Luke Williams, Metropolitan Police Service.

Making a difference to children and families...

Some of the thank you messages we received from the families at Refuge for the fantastic seasonal boxes and pamper bags:

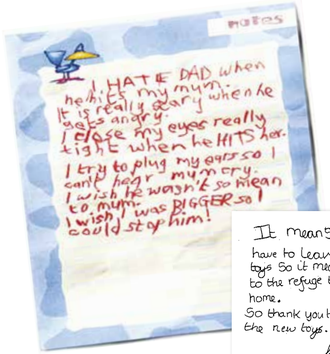
"Thank you for all the presents for myself and my children. It made me cry because it was nice to see my children so happy and excited when opening the presents. I have not seen them like this for a long time."

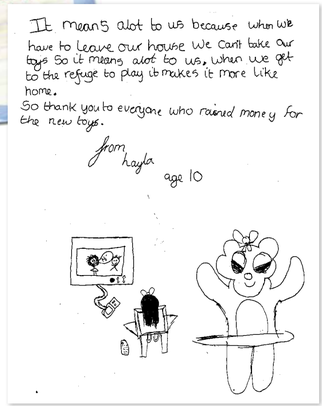
"I really did not expect the gifts and thought it was really nice of people to give me something during this time. I so appreciated getting toiletries, especially when I had nothing when I arrived here, it has helped me a lot. Thank you."

"This was the best Christmas we've ever had. My son was so excited and seeing him so happy and opening such great presents made a huge difference on this festive day."

By providing **Bright Spaces** for children in shelters the Bright Horizons Foundation supports children like these to find some normality in a safe and stimulating environment where they can play and learn.

Thank you for all that you do to make a difference.





Fundraising

Angie Midcalf's head shave

Clapham Nursery
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory tea party

Cath Turner's sit on a seat challenge

Sara Coffey's regional O2 climb

The Cycle challenge team arrive in Brighton

"The Bright Horizons Foundation is at the heart of our organisational culture and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to fundraise and be a part of touching the lives of others in crisis.

Having spent time at a women's refuge I have observed first hand how our Bright Spaces not only create enriching environments but also enrich peoples hopes of knowing people they do not know care and want to support them on their current and difficult journey. You cannot place a value on the contribution the Bright Horizons Foundation makes in the communities where we live and work. The Bright Horizons Foundation is our legacy in supporting and caring for others and I am immensely proud to be a very small part of their work!"

Sara Coffey, Divisional Operations Director

"What makes our Foundation special for me – in addition to the way it brightens lives, every day – is the opportunity it provides for us all to extend the professional skills we use in our roles at Bright Horizons for the benefit of the charity. In that way we are truly giving back – to the company and the community – in the spirit of our mission statement."

Deborah Ejenas, Communications Manager, Growth Team

"I feel honoured that I can help to make a difference to a child and be able to offer support to families to enable them to create their own special memories together particularly as they may not have experienced this before in their lives."

Jo Curtis-Lawrence, Nursery Manager Teddies Tunbrige Wells Nursery

"From seeing first-hand how the Foundation can make such a major impact on families and young children in such a positive way, encourages us to continue to support and fundraise to ensure every child and young person has the opportunity to access such invaluable resources and spaces where they can learn, play and have fun."

Sam Walker, Deputy Manager Great Cornard

"I enjoy working on the Foundation projects as Bright Spaces make a huge difference to not only families but also the professionals who use them. The Foundation supports children and families, having positive experiences in what may be troubling times. The work the Foundation supports is invaluable."

Lorna Cook, Deputy Manager Northwick Park

"The reason that I am dedicated to the Foundation is purely because it's a charity that does what it says. It uses simple and effective ways to make an invaluable difference to families and children in need. This is seen evidently in the Bright Spaces it creates across the UK - especially in the recent partnership with the MET police ABE suites. The Foundation really sees the overlooked/forgotten areas in our local communities and makes it an appreciated space that can make unpleasant experiences a little easier for those involved."

Stephanie Anyan, Administrator Northwick Park

"I think that being able to support The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children is a privilege, being part of this organisation you feel compelled to do as much as you can to support children and families in need and is something that comes naturally. When you learn about the struggles and challenges families and children have to deal with you appreciate just how fortunate you are and how much you take the small things for granted. Supporting the Foundation does enable you to put things into perspective 'not sweating the small stuff' giving some of your time and energy to those that need it is hugely rewarding in every aspect and is great fun."

Sharon Williams, Director of Employee Engagement

"Supporting the Foundation is a choice that is very easy to make. Visiting Bright Space projects and seeing the difference they make to the lives of a family is something that makes me very proud. Hearing stories from women in refuges, seeing children jump up and down when we deliver Christmas boxes and seeing the look on people's faces as we unveil gardens and rooms is what keeps me wanting to make a difference."

Claire Smillie, Regional Manager

"I like to be part of a community within Bright Horizons when helping children and families in crisis. It is a joint invested interest for us all and a priority. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to support children and families across the country who are less fortunate than myself. When times are hard everyone needs someone but not everyone has someone. It is about having an impact on people's lives, making a difference and building a better future for them. Every child deserves the best start in life."

Emma Harris, Deputy Nursery Manager

"Supporting the Foundation is a personal reward for me, I can see the benefits straight away during my visits to the Bright Spaces or during an execution of a project, from a smile of a child of opening a Christmas present or from a thank you of one of the mothers who uses the facilities. The grateful feedback from our liaisons shows how basic resources that we take for granted on a daily basis can change someone's life. Supporting your neighbours and people close to you is a task that we all should do as part of humanity. Time and work is precious for many of us, however this can take away what it is really important in life. The Foundation brings me the meaning of what is really important.... life is too short, spread positivity, be kind and supporting others is the minimum we can do. The Foundation allows me to do just that."

Angelica de Assis, Regional Manager

"I thought about a very scared child or family going down that cold dull police corridor and then seeing the Butterflies and turning into that beautifully bright coloured room with its treasures, like Alice falling down the dark hole into wonderland."

Richard Waite ICT Coordinator

"The reason why I am committed to supporting the Foundation is as follows:

I have been involved in childcare for over 40 years and in that time I have worked alongside and in partnership with children and families from so many different backgrounds. This has given me the opportunity to truly appreciate how difficult life can be for many people, I have gained first-hand experience of how resilient families can be when faced with difficult situations, I have witnessed the strength shown by families whose children face health challenges every day of their lives and I have seen the devastating effects on families who have experienced abuse and violence.

Being part of an amazing and unique group of likeminded people allows me to make a real difference in the lives of so many children and families, even though I may never meet or come into contact with them as individuals."

Barbara Gilks, Regional Manager

"I love supporting the Foundation because I find it humbling to be involved in something that gives so much to others. The foundation for me enables us to physically empower people that for some reason are at a disadvantage or low point to feel empowered to get back up and start living life to the full again, be that by having a nice space to live, work, talk or play in. I will continue to support where I can and engage children and families in our projects."

Tara Gatford, Senior Nursery Manager

"Talbot Woods support two Bright Spaces in memory of a member of staff who sadly passed away.

Our Bright Space is a woman's refuge. It brings a rewarding feeling knowing that children who have fled domestic violence have a safe, inviting environment with age appropriate and varied resources, helping them to socialise and interact with other children as well as their and outside professionals. The staff at the Bright Space often share how we have benefited individuals and when visiting on regular occasions I have met a number of the children who are in the refuge some for just a short stay and others for longer periods. It is lovely to hear their thoughts and seeing their expressions showing what the Bright Spaces mean to them. Both parents and staff are extremely generous with donations with anything the Bright Space is in need of. We enjoy raising funds and taking donations for such a great cause and have a wonderful sense of achievement. By making a difference for these children however big or small and putting a smile on their faces, makes you really appreciate life."

Jane Gordon, Deputy Manager Talbot Woods Day Nursery

Local Charities

that benefit from our grant programmes

Children

- **Norden Community Association,** mentoring and supporting young people
- **Kettering Rugby Junior Section,** engaging young people through sport
- **Twickenham Rugby Club,** engaging young people through sport
- **Girlguiding UK,** giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships
- **Whitewebbs Eagles,** under 14's football, engaging young people through sport
- **19th Livingstone Brownies,** teaching life skills to young people while having fun
- **Higham Town Junior Football,** giving young people a focus and keeping them active
- **Kettering Rugby Club,** offering more children chance to play rugby
- **4th Andover Scout Group,** engaging young people in activity
- **Balsam Family Project,** vunerable families have the opportunity to learn positive parenting behaviour
- **SPYS,** amatuer dramatics for teens
- **Bedford Cerebal Palsy Society,** play schemes and youth clubs for disabled young people
- **Firewood Cricket Club,** supporting and nurturing cricket development in the inner city
- **First Hawley Brownies,** teaching life skills to young people while having fun

Special needs

- **Emile Faurie Foundation,** riding for disabled children

Domestic violence

- **Sonas Viva House,** housing and support for victims of DV

Community

- **Creton Village Hall,** supporting community groups
- **AAina Women's Group,** support and training for Arabic women
- **Leeds Infirmary**

Abroad

- **East African Mission,** helping to give primary school children an education
- **Aurora Association Romania,** helping children get education
- **Rain Edge International Kenya,** builds classrooms, dorms and even create workplaces that will help whole families out of poverty
- **Rora Christian Fellowship**

Homelessness

- **Chapter One,** providing accommodation and support for vulnerable people

Animals

- **Animals in Need,** Caring for and rehabilitating sick, injured, trapped and distressed wild and domestic animals

Volunteering at Rushden

Twickenham Rugby Club

Apply for a grant at
foundationeurope@brighthorizons.com

Bright Spaces

created by the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children

Holloway Prison family room

Domestic Violence

- Field Lane Andrew Provan House
- Sonas Housing Viva House
- West Lothian Women's Aid
- Wellingborough and East Northants Women's Aid
- Refuge Richmond
- Refuge Brixton
- Andover crisis centre
- Hightown Churches Housing Association
- Bournemouth Churches Housing Association
- Glasgow Women's Aid
- Refuge Gaia Centre Lambeth
- Family Mosaic
- Solace Women's Aid
- Hannah House
- Refuge Stamford Hill
- Grampian Women's Aid
- South Hampshire Women's Refuge
- Refuge Rother
- Berkshire Women's Aid
- Peile House
- FAE House
- Refuge Stratford
- Peile House

...with many more under construction

Homelessness

- Chapter one Kent
- Sonas emergency housing
- Life Housing

Other

- Holloway Prison
- Pentonville Prison

Special needs

- Stanmore House school

Refugees

- Refugee Action Manchester

Young Parents

- Balsam Family Project

Vulnerable women

- Kazuri Properties

Metropolitan Police

ABE waiting rooms at:

- Edgware
- Barnet
- Holborn
- Putney
- Edgware
- Haringey
- Feltham
- Northwood

Stanmore House school kitchen

10 years
of the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children

Andrew Provan House garden Bright Space opening

Ribbon Cutting at the Stanmore House sensory room

Ireland Fun day Fundraiser

First UK and Ireland Walk on

Jim Greenman legacy Bright Space opening

Our first Bupa 10K team

4 peak challenge team reach the top of the final peak

AOE Walk on with Jonathan Edwards

Putney Police Station ABE waiting room Bright Space

Cycle challenge team

We would like to thank all of our suppliers, contractors and clients that have supported us over the last ten years with special thanks to the following...

Contact

For more information about the Foundation:

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