



# Bright Horizons FOUNDATION for Children<sup>®</sup>

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volunteers at our Feltham Police Station Bright Space.



### 3 NEW BRIGHT SPACES OPEN



### WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly newsletter from the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children. Every quarter we will be sharing news about Bright Spaces, fundraising, volunteering, case studies and resources. In this first edition we review the incredible progress made so far this year, thanks to your support. We hope you enjoy reading!

### INTRODUCTION



We have had a fantastic first half of 2023, with 3 new Bright Spaces opening, taking our total in the UK to 91. This means that we are able to help even more vulnerable children and families in our communities. Just over £56,000 has been raised to date this year, surpassing the total raised last year, thanks to our incredible fundraisers and supporters.

### £56,192 RAISED



# BRIGHT SPACE OPENINGS



## HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY, STEVENAGE

Working in partnership with the Hertfordshire Constabulary, our Bright Space at Stevenage Police Station was the first to open this year (pictured below) The Bright Space here is for children who are removed from their homes by the police for their protection. This happens without warning, and children will remain in the protection of the police until suitable foster care can be found. Unfortunately, this can sometimes involve children staying overnight in the police station offices, and so we created a child-friendly environment, providing these children with a safe place to play, relax and sleep.

## SOLACE WOMEN'S AID, LONDON

Our second and third Bright Spaces this year opened in partnership with Solace Women's Aid in two of their refuges in London (pictured). One opened in memory of a Bright Horizons colleague, who was tragically killed by her ex-partner in 2021. This Bright Space supports around 80 women and children living in two refuges, and provides a cosy area, play area and homework space.

Alanna Powell, Services Manager at Solace Women's Aid said: "The team is delighted that the playroom here has been transformed into a Bright Space. The children and families were consulted and provided input into the design and functionality of the playroom with the team and volunteers from the Foundation. A safe space to explore, play and make positive memories is such an important part of the children and young people's recovery when they come to the refuge."

Lindsey Brown, Service Delivery Manager at Bright Horizons, who led the project said, "I feel proud that we can be a small part in the families' healing process, and seeing the smiles on the children's faces at the opening of the Bright Space will stay in my memory forever."

## BRIGHTENING LIVES ACTIVITIES

We place our greatest focus on supporting our existing Bright Spaces and the children, families and Bright Space Partners they serve.

In the first half of 2023 the Bright Horizons Leadership team fundraised for and created Self Care Kits for children who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. The kits include resources to help comfort and relax children and young people in the process of disclosing and providing evidence of abuse when they visit the Lighthouse in Camden, which is a multi agency service, designed to reduce the time taken to secure justice and trauma for victims.

The Bright Horizons Growth Team donated their favourite children's books to our Bright Space partner eve, in Northampton, and heard from its Chief Executive about the impact our Bright Space has on their work with domestic abuse victims.

**Huge thanks to all our supporters for all you do to make this possible.**



Stevenage



Stevenage



Solace WA 1



Solace WA 2



# FUNDRAISING



3

## THANK YOU

We are so grateful to everyone who has organised, taken part in, and donated to all the fundraisers that have taken place so far this year. Every penny counts and enables us to make a difference to the vulnerable children and families our Bright Spaces support. From cake sales to sponsored walks, quiz nights to mountain climbs, the combined efforts of our supporters have raised just over £56,000 which is already more than we raised in the entire year in 2022! Here are just a few of the fundraisers that have taken place so far this year:

## LINAKER CHARITY OF THE YEAR

We have been chosen as Linaker's charity partner of the year and they have raised over £7,000 so far with a charity football match, cake sales and completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge.

## MOUNTAINEERS

First up was Kirsty from Bright Horizons Bedfont Lakes nursery who climbed Mount Snowdon to fundraise for a Bright Space garden at Bronzefield Women's Prison, providing a child-friendly place for children to spend time with their family members when visiting. Kirsty raised almost £700 and said, "For anyone wanting to do any fundraising you should go for it! There is no time like the present and if you keep the cause in your mind as to why you're doing it, then you'll be able to accomplish anything."

Next was Gemma from Bright Horizons St Mary's Nursery, who climbed the Three Peaks in England, Wales and Scotland, as a warm-up for her Kilimanjaro climb in September. To date Gemma has already raised more than £3,000. If you'd like to learn more about Gemma's story or donate you can do so [here](#).

## UP IN THE AIR

Three brave Bright Horizons nursery staff, Clarissa and Magdalena from Cambridge Science Park, and Aimee from East Greenwich took to the sky and skydived for the Foundation, raising over £2,700 between them.

## DOWN TO EARTH

On 20th May, 75 Bright Horizons colleagues completed three sponsored walks in London, Manchester and Northampton to fundraise for two Bright Spaces in memory of their Bright Horizons colleague who was tragically killed by her ex-partner. One Bright Space has already opened for Solace Women's Aid in London, and we are working on creating the other Bright Space in a domestic abuse refuge in Manchester next.

## RAISE FUNDS FOR FREE!

Did you know you can generate **free** donations for us at over 6,000 online retailers? It's completely free thanks to our partner, Give as you Live Online! Simply scan the QR Code with your mobile phone to sign up! Just some of the 6,000 stores paying free donations include M&S, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, asos, booking.com and Ebay.

Give as you Live  
Online



CANVA STORIES

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## »»» #LOVEFORBRIGHTSPACE

In June we were excited to launch our first **#loveforbrightspace** campaign, initiating a week of raising awareness and funds for our Bright Spaces. Bright Horizons' parents, children, staff and partners shared their heart shaped images with us on social media and participated in a range of heart themed activities, raising over £1,200 for Bright Spaces in the UK.

## »»» SAVE THE DATE: 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Coming up next is FUNdation Day on 28th November. Coinciding with Giving Tuesday, Fundation Day is all about having fun raising funds for the Foundation. More information will follow in the next edition of this newsletter, but until then please put the date in your diary!

## »»» DOMESTIC ABUSE RESOURCES

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2.4 million adults experienced domestic abuse in the year to March 2022. Of this number, 1.7 million were women and 700,000 were men, equating to a prevalence rate of 7% of women and 3% of men. According to Women's Aid, 1 in 7 (14.2%) children and young people under the age of 18 will have lived with domestic violence at some point in their childhood.

We passionately believe that we can all play a part in addressing this issue. Just over one third (33) of our 91 Bright Spaces are located in domestic abuse refuges, providing a safe place for children to play and begin to recover from their experiences.

In addition, we have worked in partnership with our colleagues at Bright Horizons and Refuge, the domestic abuse charity, to create a range of resources to help victims and those trying to support them, including a Domestic Abuse Awareness e-learning; Domestic Abuse Procedure; guides on Staying Safe at Home, On the Move, and Online; directory of specialist agencies for signposting; and a Personal Safety Plan. If you would like to receive these free resources, please get in touch [here](#).

## »»» GET INVOLVED

There are numerous ways in which you can support the Foundation and our Bright Spaces. You can:

- Fundraise and / or donate individually, as a community or as a corporate partner
- Help raise awareness by following us and sharing our stories - we are on [Linked In](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).
- Create and support new or existing Bright Spaces in your community - check out our map which shows current and pipeline Bright Space locations [here](#)

If you would like to know more about these opportunities please get in touch [here](#).

