

Hello & Welcome to our first ever Newsletter!

Well, what a strange year this has been! This time last year we were busy trying to secure much needed funds for the Centre to continue running. Who would have known that a month later we had secured funds that will help us over the next 3 years! This came through the generosity of individuals, Tudor Trust, the National Lottery, Garfield Weston and Martin Lewis Covid relief funding. As with many of us we were heading into 2020 with a sigh of relief and full of positivity for the year ahead!

Like many of us we make our New Year's resolutions; keeping fit, starting that diet...again or taking up a new hobby, all planning to make the coming year happier and healthier than the previous. But as we reflect on the past year and the Covid Pandemic many of our hopes and dreams were not fulfilled as the world entered an unprecedented time in our history. Our way of living changed dramatically and what was normal; seeing family and friends, going out to work, even heading to the supermarket was not normal anymore! As the NHS faced crisis; fear and confusion arose, but as a nation we increasingly witnessed a coming together and loving and caring for our neighbour! Throughout all the doom and gloom a real sense of community has emerged; as we stood on our doorsteps thankfully clapping for our key workers. Inspired by Captain Tom, and morning workouts with Joe Wicks and not forgetting the obligatory zoom quizzes and meetings!

One thing we have learnt is how to do things differently and live life differently haven't we? Some of this has been really hard, however, some of it has been positive and even enjoyable. Sadly, all Centre groupwork is on hold but as ever, present us with a challenge and we will rise to the occasion! We have continued supporting families and individuals through;

- Face to face support with walk and talks and visits to the park
- Phone or video calls on WhatsApp.
- Doorstep deliveries of food, gas and electric top ups.
- Practical and financial support to families directly affected by the pandemic.

The good news is that life for all won't always be like this and for BFC the future looks promising! We have used the time to focus on our future vision and development. And we are looking to move to larger premises where we can offer a wider range of support and community services. 2021 will be a year of significant change!

One thing Covid can't cancel or take away is the generosity of people and the spirit of good will which has been seen in abundance. For many no longer are our neighbour's strangers and the spirit of Christmas can be seen and felt as we look to it as being a season of hope and love!



Christmas opening - We will be closed from Wednesday 23rd December & Re-open on Monday 4th January 2021!

We know Christmas can be a lonely and difficult time for many, please see below contacts for any help and support you may need;

Rossendale food box scheme - 07508606903

Mind - Support for mental health - 0300 123 3393, info@mind.org.uk, Text: 86463

Samaritans - Call any time day or night if you need someone to talk to on 116 123

Anxiety UK - 03444 775 774 (Mon - Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm)

CALM - Campaign Against Living Miserably, for men aged 15 to 35.

NSPCC -24-hour helpline for children 0800 1111

Refuge - 0808 2000 247 (24-hour helpline)

THANKYOU'S

A huge thank you to all our funders, individual givers, local Churches and businesses that have supported us during the year! Your contributions have made a huge difference! Thank you to all who responded, read or even spread the word of our appeals! Together we have made things possible for children, families and individuals impacted by not only Covid but the difficulties that arise in our normal daily living.

A Generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11.25

One Lady said "I am literally in tears that I have been granted this help, I can't even tell you how much I appreciate it. I can't believe someone is willing to help little old me!"

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love!" - Mother Theresa

PRAYER

God of hope and peace as we celebrate this Christmas may we know your loving and gentle presence with us, fill us and those we care for with your comfort and Joy - Amen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

THE FAMILY CENTRE IS TURNING 30 IN MAY NEXT YEAR! WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING A SPONSORED FUNDRAISING EVENT TO CELEBRATE AND WE'D LOVE YOUR HELP AND IDEAS! MORE TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SO WATCH THIS SPACE!

GET IN TOUCH

We would love to hear from you. Call us on 01706872725, visit our website www.bacupfamilycentre.co.uk or find us on facebook - Bacup Family Centre

From all of us here we wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for the 2021 !

