

Reading Family Aid

Registered Charity No. 1022144



Autumn Newsletter - October 2014

'We aim to put a smile on the faces of disadvantaged children in the Reading area'

Toy Project - December 8-12 2014 ... A Date for your Dairy!

We anticipate an increase in the number of families needing help this year so would appreciate your help in a number of ways. Our planning for the event of the year started in August and we have extended our packing of toys by a day.

WAYS TO HELP RFA

- Let organisations and other charities know we are accepting submissions for Reading families in need
- Contact us if you're able to give a hand while the toy sacks are being packed – see below
- Organise a public donation point for toys and other items at a venue local to you
- Organise an in-house donations point at your place of work, encouraging your colleagues to support RFA
- Donate new/nearly new items for age range 0 – 16yrs. Ask friends and family to donate too

N.B. PLEASE DON'T WRAP ITEMS *Suggested Donations:* ♥ Books ♥ Toys ♥ Games ♥ Jigsaw Puzzles ♥ DVDs ♥ Making & Doing Items ♥ Colouring & Sketch Books ♥ Colouring pens/crayons/pencils/ paints ♥ Make-up ♥ Toiletries ♥ Chocolate selection boxes ♥ Baby & Toddler Clothes up to 3 year olds ♥ Cuddly Toys ♥ Trendy hats, Gloves & Scarves ♥ T-shirts for Teenagers ♥ High Street Vouchers and Accessories for Teenage Boys and Girls – man bags/handbags/belts/make-up bags/toilet-bags/jewellery ♥

Regrettably: NO Video or Audio cassettes NO Food items (except chocolates) NO Baby equipment NO Educational Scheme Reading or Workbooks NO Electrical items – if it has a plug on it we pass on it NO Clothes for older children (except T-shirts)

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DONATIONS:

- ❖ Use the donation points publicized in the The Reading Chronicle during October and November.
- ❖ Check our website for updates to details <http://www.readingfamilyaid.org>
- ❖ Deliver items to Big Yellow Self Storage – 27 Rose Kiln Road, RG2 0JZ
- ❖ Ring 07930033413 or email info@readingfamilyaid.org for collection if you cannot access any donation points

HELP NEEDED WITH PACKING - MON - THURS DECEMBER 8- 12

Please let us know if you are able to help with any of the following:

- Prepare and serve refreshments to the workers
- Tidy up the toys, games, books etc. on the tables
- Drive a van to collect donations and/or deliver toys
- Load and unload the vans
- Sort and select toys for our needy families



Grow your Tenner will launch at 10am Tuesday 14 October 2014 when Localgiving.com is matching one-time donations of up to £10 and monthly direct debit donations up to £10 per month for 6 months, funds permitting. If you are considering making a donation, please do so before their funds run out! To make a donation to Reading Family Aid visit: www.localgiving.com/readingfamilyaid

Our Thanks

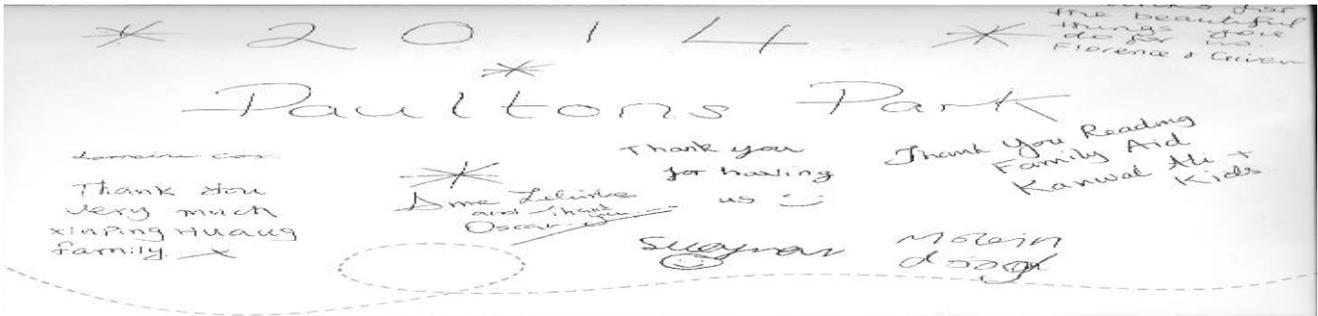
We thank and acknowledge our major sponsors Rabbits, Austin Logistics and Big Yellow who have supported us the past year and continue to do so. Thanks also to all those individuals who give of their time to help our fundraising. A full listing of our sponsors is available to view on our website – we appreciate your support.

You may not need us, but we need you!

... **Note our new phone number: 07930 033413** ...

Families Enjoy Summer Outing

This year families identified by different agencies were whisked away from Reading in coaches for a fun day and picnic at Paultons Park. There were a variety of rides to enjoy as well as animals and birds to view. Also on offer were Water attractions and a 4D cinema experience as well as all the Peppa Pig World activities. The adults accompanying the trip enjoyed the beautiful, well maintained gardens more than the food offered by the



fast-food outlets! Some of the families expressed their thanks in a large card, a section of which is displayed here.

Fundraising at the Earley Green Fair in August

This year the weather was a wash out and the Town Mayor, Councillor Linda Chambers took advantage of our gazebo, sheltering from the rain. Surprisingly enough, despite the heavy showers we raised £446.50 from selling Bric-a Brac, Games and Toys, plus some home bakes which sold well. Thanks to those who braved the rain to support us.



Caversham Festival - Raising our Profile

In July committee members spent a Saturday at the Caversham Festival in Christchurch Meadows. A couple of tombolas and some craft activities for children drew both adults and children to the stand where we were able to distribute leaflets and talk to the adults about our activities, especially our Toy Project and our outings. We hope to have won a few folk over and while doing that we managed to raise a profit of £50 towards much needed funds. This picture of two committee members at the Festival comes from:

<http://www.getreading.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids-news/gallery/caversham-festival-2014-picture-gallery-7432769>

AGM - 15 July 2014

Sallie Wall our Chair highlighted the activities of RFA through the year and spoke about growth and change in various charitable organisations including our own Reading Family Aid. Ruth Perkins, Treasurer gave her financial report and we are pleased to say our finances look healthier than at the same time last year. After the election of officers the guest speaker Liz Allison, Advisor on Parental Substance Misuse, gave us a fascinating insight into her work with families where there is parental substance misuse resulting in serious child protection concerns.

Future Plans - Funding permitting we propose to run our two Summer Outings plus a visit to a Christmas Pantomime for our families in 2015



Follow us @RdgFamilyAid

To donate: www.Localgiving.com/ReadingFamilyAid



Find us on Facebook

Phone: 07930 033413

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