

HAND IN HAND

Befriend a Child's Volunteer Newsletter
January 2012

befriend a child
turn a frown upside down

A big **hello** and welcome to the first edition of Hand In Hand of 2012! As we get back into the swing of things after the festive period, thoughts turn to another great year ahead and the hope of lots more exciting developments at Befriend a Child. Please help us make Hand in Hand a big success in 2012 by keeping us updated with your stories and activities. Happy New Year!



Kuddles the Kangaroo greets the First Bus full of children attending the annual Xmas Party at Ardoe House



The Hokey Cokey kicked off the fun and magic at this year's Xmas party

Christmas Cheer

This year, Befriend a Child provided festive fun in two forms, with double the success! While a group of the older children enjoyed a meal, dodgems and 10 pin bowling at Codonas on Saturday, December 17th, the annual Xmas Party also took place at Ardoe House on Sunday, December 18th.

Allan's Magic provided a fantastic disco and magic show, complete with a special appearance from newest staff member, Calum! A tasty traditional meal was followed by presents from Santa, with First Group providing a bus to take the contented youngsters home. Hope all who attended had a great time!

A Befriender's Story

L is a very shy child and does not like crowds. Normally L and her befriender use the base unit because of this. M thought L would not want to go to the Christmas party but L decided to come along. When they arrived L did not want to come to the room due to the large number of people there but was gently persuaded by M to come in and sit down at the table. L did not take part in any of the games but still watched the other children enjoy themselves. This was a big breakthrough for M with their relationship. L still does not have much confidence but M will encourage L every time they meet to build confidence so she can learn to deal with large crowds in the future.

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Grease Is the Word

Karen has a handful of tickets available for the Grease musical at HMT on Friday 3rd Feb, at 5:30pm

A First come, first served policy will operate—anyone interested should email karen@befriendachild.org.uk

Please note that this is for the early showing.

Happy Birthday to the following Staff/Volunteers who celebrate a January birthday:

Susan S	-	1st
Colin H	-	1st
Catherine H	-	2nd
Caroline M	-	3rd
Carol P	-	3rd
Mark M	-	8th
Michelle G	-	14th
Lynne S	-	15th
Rebecca R	-	16th
Megan P	-	19th
Helen A	-	19th
Gail S	-	20th
Hilary D	-	21st
Jillian M	-	24th
Susannah W	-	28th



Befrienders and children can now take advantage of free entry to the Foam Factory and Laser Quest on selected weekends.

Volunteers must show their Befriend a Child ID badge to qualify, and should call 01224 583388 to check with Rebecca.



Hands up who was lucky enough to get an I Pad for Xmas? Well if you did, there's no reason why you can't keep up to date with

Befriend a Child's latest activity by following us through Facebook and Twitter. Our Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/befriendachild

Alternatively, you can follow us through Twitter @befriendachild.

Just by sharing or retweeting our comments, you can help raise our profile to a whole new audience!

Befriend a Child were delighted to be asked to switch on the Xmas lights at Aberdeen Art Gallery and S and J volunteered to do the honours. This was followed by an Arts and Crafts session which was attended by four more volunteers and children.

Goodbye and thank you to

Catriona
Shirley
Agnieszka
Liz
Monica