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Busy year for our charity heroes

Compassion on a Saturday night



■ Boro Angels, from left, Alma Dennison (back) Claire Bouskill (front) Campbell Ritchie and Richard Peacock

BORO Angels is a project that was set up in 2009 as an expression of our Christian Faith, we welcome all who have a desire to help others.

We are an independent voluntary organisation and registered as a charity in 2011.

Our volunteers offer a friendly, caring, compassionate, non-judgemental presence in Middlesbrough town centre on a Saturday night until the early hours, working closely with CCTV operatives, door staff, Police and other emergency services.

We dispense flip flops, water, first aid and lollipops, generally assisting people wherever we can or just simply offer a listening ear.

We find we come into contact with people with varying emotions, issues and needs. We don't have all the answers but we try to signpost them to organisations that can help.

We are looking to develop stronger links with churches, voluntary groups, statutory agencies, and local government where appropriate, to help create an effective integrated service for those people we come into contact with.

We aim to make a difference on the streets of Middlesbrough. Why not help us by enquiring about becoming a volunteer and coming along to observe us in action?

Or consider making a donation to us, to enable us to keep doing what we do.

You can find us on Facebook or email us at volunteers@boroangels.co.uk or by telephoning 07717645560.

Support where it really matters

CREATIVE Support is not-for-profit provider of care services for people with learning disabilities, mental health and other needs.

We have a strong presence in the North-east working in Teesside, Whitby, Durham and Tyne-side. We ensure service users are involved in decisions around their care and in events and activities.

Some highlights of 2013 include Creative Support's annual five-a-side competition in which service users from across the country compete.

This year a team of service users from Middlesbrough won the shield.

Creative Support hosts two popular disco nights, at Middlesbrough's Dorman's Club and Stockton's Malleable



■ Gill Hill and Sam Wilding present a cheque for £600 to a representative from the Great North Air Ambulance raised by a Creative Support disco

club. The discos host regular charity nights and in July this year rose over £600 for the Great North Air Ambulance.

In the summer Creative Support hosted its North-East Sports Day and Summer Fair. Over 200 service users and staff attended the event. The money raised will help fund next year's sports day.

Recently staff and service

users raised money for Movember by hosting an afternoon of Movember fun activity. A moustache making workshop was particularly popular.

We are already working on events for 2014. If you would like to know more about Creative Support contact the North East regional office on 01642 661890.

Mission to fight neglect

THE Children's Society has worked across Tees Valley for 25 years, and is based at 23 The Green in Billingham.

We are a national children's charity that makes it our mission to fight adolescent neglect and child poverty.

The Children's Society currently delivers high quality work across Stockton and Hartlepool, providing emotional and practical support to children and families that are most in need.

Valued services include counseling, family support, volunteer mentoring, restorative and school transitions work.

Our services are supported from many sources, and include financial contributions from The Big Lottery

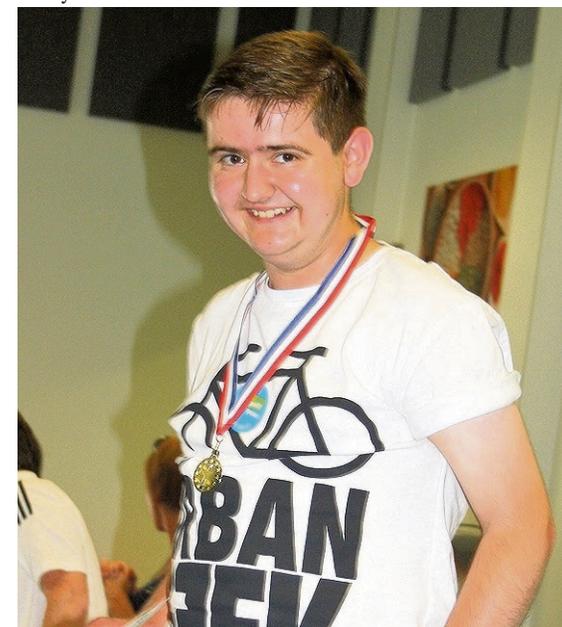
Fund, schools, businesses and public donations. The Children's Society also has a growing army of volunteers who inspire and give up their time to mentor children and young people and or fundraise for us. If you are interested in volunteering and/or supporting our work then please get in touch on 01642 559147 or email pk1@childsoc.org.uk.

As we navigate our way through times of increasing hardship, the generosity of people never ceases to amaze.

We are truly thankful to everyone on Teesside who has supported The Children's Society to make a difference, and we will continue to work alongside you to fight injustice and put an end to child poverty.



■ Dan Jenkins, a local Children's Society volunteer



■ John Sutherland collecting a medal at Creative Support's 2013 Sports Day

Making a difference



■ The Land's End to John O'Groats cycle ride

THE South Cleveland Heart Fund was set up in 1994 dedicated solely to support our regional Cardiothoracic Centre at South Cleveland Hospital (now James Cook) in Middlesbrough.

Our committee of volunteers raises money which would not be available through NHS funding to keep the Heart Unit at the leading edge of specialist patient care for the population it serves - 1.6 million from Sunderland to Scarborough, Carlisle to Ripon and all points between.

The unit has achieved national and international acclaim for its work.

We provide state of the art equipment, grants for staff training and sponsor research projects in the unit.

We also fund new developments in heart care in anticipation of

formal funding becoming available when the benefits are demonstrated eg. £20,000 to purchase a new type of heart valve for implantation by our heart surgeons which has now become a fully funded research project.

Monies are raised by accepting donations from grateful patients and local industry, sponsorship events such as the Land's End to John O'Groats cycle ride, and by committee members running our stall in the hospital and at fairs around the area selling labelled items such as T-shirts, sweat shirts, gifted woolens, books DVDs, etc.

We do make a difference and our help is greatly appreciated by the Heart Unit staff.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the committee, or just to raise funds.



■ Martin Barber, left, senior partner of Evolution Financial Services presenting a cheque to Dr Adrian Davies, chairman South Cleveland Heart Fund at Wynyard Rooms after one of their fundraising events