



Registered Charity No: 1104708

From Me2 U

Newsletter September 2010

Welcome to the autumn newsletter. The summer has flown by and has been filled with lots of exciting Me2 Club events. The summer trip was a huge success and was attended by 64 people (including parents, children, siblings and volunteers). We have also run our second weekend away which was enjoyed by everybody - there are lots of photos inside!

Contact Details:

Me2Club
1a Park House
17 Headley Road
Woodley, Berkshire
RG5 4JB

info@me2dub.org.uk

0118 969 6369

07821858852

www.me2dub.org.uk

Summer Trip at TVAP

On the 17th July Me2 Club children, families and volunteers came along to enjoy a day in the sunshine at Thames Valley Adventure Playground. It was a brilliant day and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and the picnic! Thanks to everyone for coming along and making it such good fun.



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Santa Fun Run
Raising money for the Me2 Club

National Accreditation for the
Me2 Club

NEW volunteer committee

Thank you

AGM, 23rd September - Please come!

Join us for wine and nibbles at our AGM and find out what we've been doing over the past year, our plans for the future and have a chance to meet with other families and volunteers.

Date: 23rd September (please note change of date)

Time: 7pm—8pm

Location: Ambleside Centre, Ambleside close, Woodley, RG5 4JJ

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New matches - Volunteer Stories

"I got involved with the Me2 club because I wanted to do some volunteering that I could see having a direct benefit on someone's life, and something completely different to my job. Having never done anything like this before, I was a bit nervous, but I needn't have worried. The training was really useful, and Emily and Kristina came with me to meet Ethan at his home. Ethan is a lovely boy, and I have been going to fencing classes on Monday evenings with him for the past couple of months. I really enjoy going to the classes, and seeing Ethan laughing as he is running across the gym brings a smile to my face too! Ethan is doing very well, and I only need to sometimes repeat what the instructor has been saying, and give Ethan reminders and encouragement. It's a bonus that I am getting to do the fencing myself too!" Jackie



"I've been working with Josh since June and it's been a great journey to see how our relationship has blossomed. Being completely new to this experience, I didn't know what to expect from Josh and my first session. Luckily Amy from the Me2 Club has been absolutely brilliant with helping me understand how Josh's mind works and the different ways I can help him to interact with the group at Explorers. It was challenging at first as I was a new person to Josh and it took him a little while to get used to me but after the summer break Josh was extremely pleased to see me and began telling me all about his summer holiday. It's been a great few months getting to know Josh and extremely rewarding to know that by looking after Josh at Explorers, his mum and dad get to have a break as well. I'm sure there are many other volunteers who feel the same as I do and for anyone thinking of giving it a go, just do it!" Claire



Inclusion Training

The inclusion training has now begun, and Emily has delivered 2 really successful workshops with many more planned over the next few months. These training sessions are designed for activity leaders running mainstream activities such as Scout / Guide groups, youth clubs, art clubs etc. The training sessions cover a range of disability awareness and inclusion topics. We hope that this will mean that more groups can be inclusive for everyone.

We would really like to advertise this training to the widest range of activity leaders possible, so please, please pass on the details to anyone you know in the Wokingham Borough who may be interested in attending.

Me2 Club new projects update

2nd Residential trip - another success!

Our second weekend away was another huge success, with 9 children and 13 volunteers joining us for an overnight trip to Sayers Croft Field Centre in Surrey on the 29th-30th July. Everyone had a brilliant time and tried lots of new activities including a low ropes course, maze, obstacle course, raft building, outdoor swimming pool, shelter building, camp fire and art activities and games.

'We should do this all the time, I want to come back every month +'

'I really enjoyed bonding with my child through all the activities'

'It's given me more confidence in my skills and I know more about my child'

'I think its fantastic to see everybody giving everything a go, and its incredible how much everybody supported and encouraged each other'



Thanks to all our volunteers who came along and made the trip such a huge success and well done to all the young people for trying all the new activities!

More Me2 Club News

5k SANTA FUN WALK / JOG / RUN!

We are looking for volunteers / parents / friends / families to take part in the London 5km Santa fun run on 5th December. Up to 2,000 people are expected to take part in this event raising funds for hundreds of different charities and now this is your chance to join them and raise some money for the Me2 Club.

When: **Sunday 5th December 2010** (times to be confirmed)

Where: **Greenwich Park, London**

Sponsorship needed: **Minimum £100** (we have a justgiving page which makes collecting sponsorship really easy)

Registration cost: **£20 registration fee refundable** once you've raised your £100 or more!

Details: A **FREE santa suit** will be given to each runner. You would need to get yourself to and from London. The more people we can get to join us for this fun filled event the better. It should be a brilliant day so please invite friends and family to join you and help us to raise lots of money.

More info: For more information or to sign up for the race then please visit: www.me2club.org.uk/news.htm



Me2 Club Accredited by National Mentoring Organisation

The Me2 Club has been awarded the Approved Provider standard for safe and effective practice in mentoring and befriending. This is a Government benchmark for excellence and we are delighted that the quality of our work has been recognised.

This award confirms that Me2 Club has good policies and procedures in place, provides training and support to all our volunteers, has an effective management committee and provides a needed service by families in the community.



Volunteer Committee

Thank you to all of you who have shown an interest in being part of our new volunteer committee. Hopefully we will have our first meeting in October.

If there is anyone else who would like to get involved in any other aspect of the Me2 Club, from fundraising to publicity, organising events to recruiting volunteers please get in touch (amy@me2club.org.uk). It doesn't matter whether you are at the start of your volunteering or have been a volunteer with us for years we'd love for you to join us on our committee and have your say on what's happening in the Me2 Club.

It won't be a huge commitment, just a couple of hours every 6 weeks to attend a meeting and then you can take part in as many or as few additional activities as you like!

THANK YOU

A massive thank you to everyone for all your support



Thanks to Wokingham and District Scout Council for their donation of £112.40 from their St. George's Day collection.



Thanks to everyone who has used The Giving Machine when shopping online, our first donation of £37 has just arrived! Thank you and keep shopping via: www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

A special thanks again to all our volunteers leaving us for your time, commitment and enthusiasm. For those of you off to University good luck and don't forget to stay in touch!