

Understanding Differences 9th UPDATE... from April 2008 to December 2009



The purpose of **Understanding Differences** UPDATES is to keep the community informed about our progress; fundraising, events and all relevant information about our funds & projects.

Background information

Our UD fund is here to fund anything that unites the 5 sub-funds.

The reason we divided the organisation into colour coded funds was to make the navigation and involvement easier and more personal; setting aside projects that may enable families to offer and gain support.

An example of this is how we still have not named the Green and Orange funds in the hope that there may be a family out there just needing to be involved in something more positive to help deal with their own negative experience that may offer them some comfort in knowing that their issues occurred but may now help build a network of strategies that may help others.

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Grants and donations	Date	Description	Income from April 2008-2009
Orange Community grant	June-09	Young explorers craft activities	£500.00
East Sussex council	July-09	Computer and other equipment	£800.00
West Sussex council	June-09	Computer and other equipment	£800.00
Business donation	Oct-09	General support for UD	£250.00
Supporter donation	Dec-09	General support for UD	£480.00
Longley Trust	Dec-08	Bereavement training	£400.00
Macmillan Cancer Care	Dec -09	Cancer Training course	

Since last update

Since April 2008 we have still remained a small committee run group with myself, the founder & secretary carrying out most of the day to day tasks. Nevertheless, we have achieved great things and I want to personally take this opportunity to express our sincerest thanks to everyone mentioned within...

We worked very hard with a number of volunteers to whom we are most grateful of the time they offered during redesigning the logo and website... After many many hours in discussion to redesign our logo, we finally decided on a broly! This symbolises the fact that although many charities have one aim; we have many and cater for families from any background or experience... under one umbrella. The broly also symbolises protection as well as some of us feeling that we always walk with a cloud above us, so figure that each will find a different. But, relevant meaning of the broly.

We launched our new website. Please visit www.understandingdifferences.org.uk I cannot thank one particular volunteer enough for his long standing commitment.

We've named our purple fund and done a little fundraising for what is now known as our Shattered Dreams Appeal... See more enclosed.

Committee

Replacing our Chairperson;

Although we were due an AGM around April time, sadly our chair left us just before opening our Drop-In. Unfortunately he was also the counsellor who we mentioned would be contributing towards managing our confidential bereaved parents group. As other events meant that our accounts were not up-to-date, we decided to postpone our AGM until we also thought we may have a replacement Chairperson. Please note that we are working with Crawley CCVS to resolve these issues ASAP. In the meantime, if you think you would be interested to join our committee then please contact us. AGM now xxxxxxxxxx

Policies & Procedures have been drafted to ensure the safety and equality of all involved in our projects

We are still actively seeking new members and committee personnel, If anyone would like to get involved or knows someone who may like to assist or join our committee we would very much like to hear from you or them.

Funds

We have continued to boost our funds from donations from the community via our collection boxes. This would not be possible without the support of the local shops & businesses who allow us to leave our collection boxes. A massive Thank-you to everyone who makes this possible.

- Profit now £ 333 but this is after a large book order to offer a wider range of awareness, information and support to families expenditure

- Income

Expenditure

Collection boxes

OUR 2009 ANNUAL GRAND DRAW

The prize draw raised a total of £ 72.00

Drawn On December 13th 2009

THE LUCKY WINNERS WERE:

1st Prize:	Samsung MP3 Player	S. Oldmeadow from Tilgate
2nd Prize:	£25 Harvester Meal Voucher	Wendy from Tilgate
3rd Prize:	Saisho portable CD Stereo, Radio	John B from Broadfield
4th Prize:	Photo Shoot and free 8x10 print	J.Flint from Tilgate
5th Prize:	Body Coffee set	Kathy from Tilgate
6th Prize:	Body Coffee set	Linda N from Langley Green
7th Prize:	Small Teddy & Chocolate	Wendy from Tilgate
8th Prize:	Small Teddy & Chocolate	Carla Grange from Horley
9th Prize:	Small Teddy & Chocolate	K.Jones from Southgate
10th Prize:	Small Teddy & Chocolate	John. R from Gossops Green

Thank-you to everyone who sold tickets and to those who bought them!

Description or Collection Boxes in the community	Amounts from 6th April 2008 to the 5th of April 2009	Total Amounts since initially supporting us
Bouncy Castle	Ud 40.00?	40.00
Grids & Raffles		
Balloons	Ud 41.90	41.90
Happy Shopper	Ud 25.89	136.35
Centaur Club	Ud 0	83.88
Apple tree	Ud 6.46	78.46
White Knight	Ud 16.15	119.95
Three Bridges Football club	Ud 0	52.53
Fish farm chip shop camber-	Ud 10.50	10.50
Balloon stroke arrangement donations	Ud 38.90	38.90

Shattered Dreams Appeal...

...Delivering projects aimed at Re-Building Lives; as best as possible, during and after Journey's caused by Terminal Illness or Sudden Loss...

Unfortunately we had to close our **Shattered Dreams Drop-In** which was being held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Stepping Stones, 5 Perryfield Road, Southgate, Crawley, between 6.45pm and 8.15pm

Plans are ongoing to re-open a new Drop-In during February 2010 that will offer awareness, information and support about any diagnosis, loss or bereavement that will be accessible to all. We were extremely proud to open the above drop-in service on 21st April 2009 but were disappointed to learn that although the service was never meant to be a Counselling service but simply a self help type of support group it was

immensely undersupported by potential referring organisations... Bereaved parents and others involved were deemed not qualified enough to run what we had been promoting. We were sadly forced to close the service pending Cruse Training and getting more people on board who are better qualified such as counsellors, Gp's, Psychotherapists and other therapists or childcare workers. Publicising and paying for the venue above was funded by donations made in collection boxes and monies raised from our regular Halloween event and raffle. But since opening we received a WSCC grant to cover costs of some equipment. Fundraising is ongoing;

gaining the support of a local business or succeeding in grant applications to continue to pay the rent and offer what will be a great service to anyone feeling isolated fearful after a diagnosis or event in their family. Although we hope to excel in offering bereavement awareness, information and support to anyone, their friends, family and professionals. We really hope that this will be a regular evening but do urge you to check by email, text or phonecall just in case there have been some unforeseeable changes. For more information please contact 07832 245014 or email admin@understandingdifferences.org.uk

The main focus of the Drop-In was to help bereaved parents through the loss of a child or parents of deeply affected bereaved children. This may be children bereaved of a parent or sibling, grandparent or friend. While any loss is significant; the affects of losing a child are immensely deep rooted and life-changing... no matter what face we wear. Likewise, as a parent, how do you tell your child that a parent or sibling may soon die?

We aim to enable as many bereaved parents as possible to come along to meet other bereaved parents as we feel this is a very different type of loss to endure leaving many feeling isolated for what can be many years. We also realise that coming into a new environment where you do not know anyone may be difficult so, if there is anything that we can do to help you physically get there or feel more comfortable about coming then please contact us.

Please contact us to help develop the following projects:

- * A private area for bereaved parents to share experiences with others who have also endured the loss of a child or partner with young children to support.
- * Information about how to gain access to our Internet forum.
- * A wide age range of resources to loan.
- * Information about how to make an entry in our Terminal Illness & Bereavement Diary style book that we hope to publish with a range of families experiences and tributes.
- * We also aim to develop a range of workshops for all; from craft projects to promoting self-awareness amongst professionals, friends & family to increase proactive support for those whose lives have been shattered.

Description or Collection Boxes in the community	Amounts from 6th April 2008 to the 5th of April 2009	Total Amounts since initially supporting us
Pizza Go Go	Pu 22.02	229.97
Tilgate park cafe	Pu 9.07	98.77
Troys	Pu 44.95	71.45



www.bayengravingltd.com 01293 863063 donated £100 to support our Shattered Dreams Appeal from June 2008 to June 2009

We seek businesses to support any of our funds. Please contact us if you are interested on admin@understandingdifferences.org.uk

Little Ross Memorial Fund...

...Delivering projects aimed at Raising Awareness and Supporting families, during and after Journey's caused by Congenital Heart Disease...

Background information - *This sub fund of Understanding Differences has been proudly set up in Memory of our Precious Little boy 'Ross' to help other families who have experienced the uncertainty of such a diagnosis...*

Recent figures state that nearly 1 in 100 babies are born with some kind of heart defect (CHD). Like any diagnosis, this is the beginning of a very traumatic journey for everyone in the family with a range of possibilities and outcomes... Contact us now to support this cause.

2008/2009 has been a slow year for LRMF, as unfortunately other projects have taken priority, including the website and the drop-in, but one of the biggest setbacks at present is a lack of professional people to proof read our series of books.

Series 1 to 5 of 'A Journey about Congenital Heart Disease' of our *Young Explorers, Young Experiences Collection*; have been drafted in a few different layouts to get an idea of appropriate wordcount and content for Children in the following categories

- [Foundation Stage](#) age 3-5yrs
- [KS1](#) age 5-7yrs
- [KS2](#) age 7-11yrs

To date we have a profit of £3,366.00 towards funding the printing and delivery of such a series; we already purchased ISBN numbers for these publications and had great hopes to use the series to create awareness and offer information to siblings, friends, other family members and colleagues. These would therefore aid supporting families directly affected by CHD from early stages of diagnosis through to the day to day living with the various conditions.

We've not done any fundraising for this fund during the year however, we still have managed to top up the fund from monies collected from collection boxes:

Income

Description	Income from April 2008-2009	Total Amounts since initially supporting us
Pound hill chip shop	Lrmf 40.51	139.65
Rogers Ceramics	Lrmf 22.09	162.38
Archie's Supermarket	Lrmf 23.77	76.10
K2 Leisure Centre	Lrmf 97.82?	108.02?
Hawth park in valentines day balloons roses	Lrmf 21.25	21.25
Furnace green chip shop	lrmf4.00	4.00
The downsman	Lrmf 49.97?	48.97

Expenditure

Money was previously raised from funeral donations, collection boxes and other fundraising events but, to progress with this project we need to form a team of readers and gain the support of a medical professional to endorse any publication.



Orange Fund...

...Delivering projects aimed at Raising Awareness and Supporting families, during and after Journey's caused by diagnosis of a range of physical conditions ...

Green Fund...

...Delivering projects aimed at Raising Awareness and Supporting families, during and after Journey's caused by diagnosis of a range of social, emotional & behavioural conditions ...

Income

Description	Income from April 2008-2009	Total Amounts since initially supprting us
Parsons Pig	Or 10.00	41.12
Bloomers	Or 11.50	70.81
Fish Plaice	Or 75.50	383.83

Income

Description	Income from April 2008-2009	Total Amounts since initially supprting us
Southgate Best One	Gr 29.58?	77.94?
Londis ifield shops	Gr 29.11	29.11

Expenditure

We've not done any fundraising for this fund during the year however, we still have managed to top up the fund from monies collected from collection boxes:

Expenditure

As you can see we would still like to name this fund appropriately. If you have been affected by anything that comes under the umbrella of any physical condition that is not CHD and would see the value in being further involved then please contact us.

See our Little Ross Memorial Fund to get an idea of how we could move forward with projects that will benefit those affected in both ways; by benefiting from the self help content of writing as well as benefiting the reader.

Contact us now if you feel you have something to offer our network of Awareness, Information and Support.

Background

Any diagnosis or loss affects the whole family which includes children of any age. Even if we have not told the children what is happening, they sense that something is not right and begin to use their imaginations to guess what could be wrong. We support the ethos of being open and as honest with children as is age appropriate and The Young Explorers Fund aims to offer the tools to help explain and include children, giving opportunity to understand and explore their feelings.

With this in mind, we invite any adult to access the following resources at our Drop-In:

- *A pilot scheme of craft activities to work through with your child at home eg: '...Box of Memories', '... Garden of Memories'
- *A wide age range of resources to loan that can be shared with, or offered to your child.



Apart from the collection boxes we have not done any direct fundraising for this fund during the year however, the collection boxes still meant we were able to top up the fund from monies for this funds:

Income

Description	Income from April 2008-2009	Total Amounts since initially supporting us
Ifield Chip Shop	Ye 8.40	64.44
Blacksea chip shop	Ye 17.82	17.82 see old list

Expenditure

The Shattered Dreams Drop-In houses various resources for children and adults affected by any physical or emotional issue. These are also accessible to friends, family and professionals who know and work with such families.

We currently excel in offering information that will support families affected by the umbrella of Terminal Illness and Loss (see YEF for children and SDA for adults)

- * Information about making an entry in our tribute book.
- * A private area for parents of bereaved children to share experiences with others.

Supporting children can be tough when you have your own feelings of loss too. Our goal is to develop regular Young Explorers Workshops for families to benefit from adult and child peer support. Take part in our pilot scheme or contact us if you would prefer a peer group opportunity.

In the meantime, if you are a parent of a deeply affected child you can still benefit from our Information available and the confidential meeting place at the Drop-In.