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- **First Newsletter of 2024 incorporating Summer 2023, October 2023 half term and Christmas 2023**

LWFCI-UK is a non-profit organisation and registered Charity in the UK, which operates in Bromley and Orpington

We reach out to disadvantaged children, young people and adults from the local communities, in order to positively impact their lives, through various programmes. Our goal is to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels comfortable and valued. By bringing people together from different walks of life we learn from each other and create a more vibrant and connected community. We particularly seek to reach the parent/carers of the BAME SEND community although we have children from all cultures join our clubs.

Our programmes include **Destiny Children SEN Club** which is the creative social club for children with special educational needs and disabilities. **Destiny Children SEN Club** also offers a regular support forum for parents/carers both in person and online via our WhatsApp group.

LWFCI Sports Clubs during the past year has consisted of a weekly, **Saturday Football club** and a **midweek Basketball** session for the under 16s

Short Breaks and HAF (Holidays, Activities, Food) activities have become a regular holiday feature of our organisation during school holidays for the past 4 years, in partnership with Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum and London Borough of Bromley. ShortBreaks specialist provisions offer 'respite' short breaks enabling children and young people with disabilities to have enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, contributing to their social inclusion and personal and social development. They also provide the parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities with a necessary and valuable break from their caring responsibilities, knowing their child will be cared for and will have enormous fun.

Highlights of our work

Football is for pan-ability boys and girls aged 8-15 years, running every Saturday from 2pm to 3.30pm at Harris Academy in Tintagel Road, Orpington, on the Ramsden Estate. This class is free to all Clarion residents, or £1 per session for all other residents. Our football club has a weekly turnout of approximately 22 boys and girls.

We have been running **Short Breaks and HAF (Holidays, Activities, Food)**, during school holidays, in partnership with Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum and London Borough of Bromley for the past 4 years. The popularity of these free, full day sessions for parents of children with severe SEND has meant that we always have a waiting list. Thanks to funding we are able to offer a high percentage of spaces to children that require 1 to 1 and personal care and even a few 2 to 1 spaces.

Inclusive **Basketball** for young people up to age 16 runs on Tuesday evenings, in Bromley, from 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

Our goal is still to expand the programme to include 17-24 year olds but funding is proving difficult to secure.

- **Destiny Children SEN club**

- Our **Wednesday club** is still an online **Zoom** session where the children enjoy sensory activities, singing and social activities, interacting, discussing their week and receiving support and guided play. We have continued to provide our weekly sessions of creative, social activities for children with Special Educational Needs for two hours on a Monday giving carers a short break. Our parent/carer support group has resumed and thanks to funding from the Mayor of London we run two sessions per month. Our daytime session runs every first Wednesday at United Reform Church in Bromley from 11am-1pm and our evening session runs at The Pavilion Hotel in Orpington every third Monday from 5pm – 7pm. The parent can drop their child at club and walk to the venue where they can relax with other parents whilst enjoying a hot meal. We have many guest speakers lined up for 2024 and these events have proved popular with parents as we offer support when we meet, share information and personal experiences, and meet new people who are in similar circumstances to ourselves. We want our projects to support families with children with a range of disabilities such as Autism, ADHD, speech and language difficulties as well as other learning disabilities.

- We have seen positive outcomes through our clubs. All our projects encourage social communication and bonds between children, their parents, and peers, and help children and young people to develop self-esteem, improving social integration in the process. Destiny Children and Family Support Group is currently funded by BBC Children in Need and Clarion Futures. We appreciate their funding for these beneficial projects.

- **Our Project Work in 2023**

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of numerous colorful wooden letters and numbers. The colors include red, yellow, blue, and green. The letters and numbers are scattered across the frame, creating a vibrant and textured backdrop. The text is overlaid on this background in a white, sans-serif font.

Update of Destiny Children Project

Monday Session at Mountfield Community Centre Orpington

Destiny Children and Family Support project is managed by LWFCI-UK and is led by a team of staff and volunteers, the majority of whom are themselves parents or carers of children with special needs and learning disabilities or SEN teachers/teaching assistants from local schools. Our Monday sessions are held at Mountfield Community Centre in the St Mary Cray part of Orpington

Tutorial support in Maths, English, reading and writing continues ad hoc but only at the request of parent. We do lots of creative social activities to boost communication, learning development and friendships.

Wednesday Zoom Club with Miss Sade

On Wednesday evening we have our regular Zoom club for the children. When this started, during Lockdown, it used to be 2 hours long . Then we ran out of funding and can now only afford one hour from 6-7pm with only 1 leader.

With the hour we make time for socialising and a game of bingo. With two hours we used to do art and crafts, with volunteers dropping resources at the childrens' homes, in order that they had the same resources as the leader. The children could then follow along, making some great memories and creations they can keep forever. They also played Hangman and the online game Blooket, where the children have to answer questions in a quiz and then steal gold from each other. They loved it. Sometimes we might have time for one quick game of Blooket after bingo but they are always asking for more and we would love to have the extra time with them

We have been doing bingo for 3 years now and the children have won many prizes and are excited to choose their prize on Amazon then it arrives at their front door! Many of our children have struggled with not winning but over time they have started to learn that sometimes you will lose, not cry, congratulate the winner and now, even ask each other what they are going to choose for their prizes! Most of the children on Zoom can't access any of our clubs activities so this is the only social interaction, with other peers, that they have access to, other than school, so they really look forward to this all week. If we could get more funding we can go back to doing art, craft and sensory games and give them a two hour Virtual Youth Club.

If you wish to support us with funding, please donate on this link

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/destiny-children-sen-club-help-children-with-sen/>

- **Short Breaks at St Philomenas in Orpington**

- ShortBreaks allows our children and young people (age 5-16) to engage with their peers whilst at the same time giving respite to parent/carers of children with special needs and disabilities in Bromley

- During the 2023 *Summer holidays (2nd and 3rd August , 9th and 10th August, 16th and 17th August)*
- *October half term (16th and 17th and 24th and 25th October) and the Winter Break of 2023* children and young people had the opportunity to play and engage in meaningful daily activities such as football, basketball, sensory fun play and arts and crafts. Thanks to all our amazing staff and volunteers who work hard to support our children.



Holidays, Activities and Food Programme (known as HAF)

Marjorie Mclure in Chislehurst was our Summer HAF venue

From 10am-3pm on 31st July, 1st August, 7th and 8th Aug, 14th and 15th August and 23rd August

Children and young people had the opportunity to play and engage in meaningful daily activities such as football, basketball, sensory fun, play and arts and crafts.

Thanks to all our amazing staff and volunteers who work hard to support our children who all had a wonderful time. The aims of the HAF camps is to provide a safe space for children and young people , promote education by maintaining good mental health, fitness, wellbeing whilst reducing boredom during holiday time. The [#HAF2023](#) scheme is designed to provide eligible children with free, fun & enriching activities, with a healthy meal provided each day!

Some of the feedback received from member was, "it was fun" and "...enjoyed the delicious food which was provided to everyone"

We would like to thank [Bromley Children & Families Voluntary Sector Forum](#) supporting our organisation. We are also very grateful to [Bromley Council](#) for funding this program [#HAF2023](#) Camp



Winter HAF Multi Activity Camp



Our popular Holiday, Activities, and Food camps, catering specifically to those who meet the eligibility criteria - (benefits related Free School Meals, and refugees residing in Bromley) were able to join us for a winter filled with fun and exciting activities!



Together with BCFForum, LWFCI offered a multi-activity camp which included sports, sensory activities and magic for children with SEND/Complex need. We had many 1-2-1 and took ages 5-16 years old.. The camp provided children with the opportunity to engage in a variety of sports and activities in a safe and friendly environment.



In addition to sports and activities, nutritious and healthy lunches and snacks were provided for the children throughout the day, ensuring that the children are well-fed and energised for their activities.



It all took place, this year, at St Philomenas CP School, Chelsfield Road, Orpington, BR5 4DR on 22nd & 27th – 28th December 2023 from 10am to 3pm

Spirit of Bromley

- A surprise Flash Mob was the finale to Spirit of Bromley which was held 16-24 September 2023. It is an opportunity to make a difference to the quiet, unsung heroes of our town- individuals and organisations that have made a positive impact in our community. **Destiny Children SEN club** had rehearsed with Temple Dance and the surprise Flash Mob delighted the crowd that gathered in The Glades. The Mayor was also in attendance!

Everyone was shocked and surprised when the children and young people rocked up, placed a boom box in the middle of The Glades and all of a sudden performed the most amazing dance that they've learnt together!



Christmas 2023

- Our end of the year Christmas celebration of 20th December 2023, in collaboration with [Bromley Children & Families Voluntary Sector Forum](#) , ended the year celebrating with children and families @Lwfci-Uk. Every child received a gift from Santa and everyone had a great time. Thank you to all our supporters, volunteers, staff and members supporting our charity work throughout the year. A HUGE THANK YOU to all our sponsors (you know who you are) and funders, new and old, [Bromley Council](#) , [Clarion Housing](#) , [BBC Children in Need](#) and GlobalGiving supporting our project work in 2023 and we look forward to make more impact in our COMMUNITY this year.
- Thanks again BCFFORUM [Samantha Bcfforum](#) for facilitating the donations of gifts and toys for our children and above all thanks to our Trustees @Lwfci-Uk for your commitment to grow the charity. God bless you for your continuous support.



Saluting Our Sisters

During October, Community Links, Bromley (who empower the voice of the voluntary sector) saluted African Heritage leaders who give so much to their local organisations. The 2023 theme was "Saluting our Sisters" and highlighted the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities. No wonder they asked Jennifer for her contribution!

Jennifer- we, too, salute you



Celebrating Bromley Send Stars

This years Bromley SEND stars was hosted at The Warren in Hayes on 1st November and LWFCI-UK had been nominated for **SEND Champion in the Community**. We were in the top 3 which is a great recognition for all our helpers.

But the best news was that Jennifer won the *Parent /Carer award* of the year. **Parent/Carer Award** was to recognise "the amazing things they do to benefit their child or young person with SEND"

The event was the finale to a month-long showcase and those that were nominated and shortlisted for their achievements were invited to the celebration event where, along with professionals from across the SEND Partnership, their lives and the contribution they make was celebrated. Seeing Jennifer receive this award, outside of her charity work, was very special to see and much deserved and everyone attending was thrilled that she won. It felt like being with a minor celebrity!





Christmas Party 2023

Wednesday 20th December from
5pm to 8pm

- Our staff, volunteers and parents all joined in to make this full of laughter and energy for the children





Our parents seem to enjoy the kids party too.....

