



KINSHIP NEWS

ISSUE 22 | November - December 2017

Christmas Edition

Northern Ireland
Kinship Care
Keeping families together



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£1,001,841.60 Secured For Kinship Carers and their Children

Over the last 4 years our Caring for Kin Project in Mid Ulster and Kinship Care Support Service in L'Derry have secured £1,001,841.60 in Foster care Allowances, Residence Order Allowances, Guardian's Allowance and social security benefits for 146 kinship carers caring for 240 children. Thank you to the Big Lottery Fund for funding our services and believing in us and to our staff for making kinship carers and their youngsters count in Northern Ireland.



Pensioner of the Year Awards

A huge congratulations to Hilda O'Donnell who was shortlisted for the 2017 Pensioner of the Year Awards. Hilda, who is 67 is bringing up her two grandchildren aged 6 and 13 and doing an incredible job. Thank you to Age Concern North West for the fantastic food, music and dancing and to Hilda for making everyone here at Kinship Care NI extremely proud.



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SAFE!**

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**ARE YOU A
GRANDPARENT
RAISING YOUR
GRANDCHILDREN ?**

Kinship Care NI run KIN TOGETHER Support Groups for kinship carers in Derry/Londonderry, Belfast, Larne, Cookstown, Dungannon, Newtownabbey, Coleraine, Portstewart, Magherafelt, Strabane, Omagh, Enniskillen and Antrim.

For more information contact us free on 0800 022 3129

Staff Health and Wellbeing

We held a Health and Well-being Day for staff in our L'Derry and Magherafelt Offices. Staff were treated to a fantastic breakfast and a Mental Health Boot Camp with Emmet Lynch and then got their hair and nails done at Jon Paul Hairdressors. We had a very relaxing day!



Fab Lab



Our Youth Champions Group attended a number of sessions with Shantallow Fablab. Young people designed Christmas decorations and a new logo to promote programmes to other young people living in kinship care. To find out more about our Youth Champions Group and programmes on offer, contact Sarah on 028 71373731 or email info@kinshipcareni.com

Jo Jingles

Children had a fantastic time singing and dancing with Jo Jingles. Lots of new friendships made and Christmas presents wrapped for carers. For more information on activities for children aged 3-8 years, contact Emma on 028 71373731 or email info@kinshipcareni.com.





£1 Million Celebration

We held a special event to celebrate securing over £1 million in financial support for kinship carers and their children. Thank you to the Big Lottery Fund and Amanda Doherty for speaking at the event and Margaret Flanagan for sharing her experience of kinship care. Thank you also to Kieran Downey and Tom Cassidy from the Western Health and Social Care Trust and to all the carers and children who came along to celebrate this important achievement.



Flight of Dreams

Thomas Cook, Cash for Kids and Belfast International Airport made children in kinship care feel extra special this Christmas by organising a Flight of Dreams. Children flew around the sky with Santa and his elves and had a fantastic time. We even made it onto the telly!



Deloitte Christmas Coffee Morning



Staff at DeloitteNI held a Christmas Coffee Morning to raise money and awareness of kinship care. Thank you to everyone at Deloitte for all their support during the year and for raising the profile of our work with kinship carers and their children.





Big Kinship Care

**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**



We held a Christmas Party for 159 children and their families at St. Columbs Park House.

Children enjoyed Christmas dinner and met Santa Claus and his elves. Mrs Claus also came along to read stories and children tried their hand at balloon modelling and had their photographs taken in the Santa Photobooth. Thank you to all the children and carers who came along and to our Youth Champions for looking after the children and making the day a success.



Oakfield Park



Carers and children from Omagh and Strabane had a wonderful time at Oakfield Park in Raphoe.

Children had hot chocolate, played with the elves in the snow, sang Christmas carols and received a surprise visit from Santa. For more information on programmes and activities delivered to children in the Strabane and Omagh areas contact Ruth on 028 71373731 or email info@kinshipcareni.com.





A Big Kinship Care NI Christmas



Thank You



We would like to thank everyone for making Christmas extra special for kinship carers and their children.

Massive thanks to Cash for Kids who supported our Christmas Toy Appeal and provided new toys to 359 children (worth £15,705). Thanks also to members of the public for the fantastic donations of toys and clothes for children in kinship care. A special thanks to Martin McGrath, Daisy Mules and Buttle UK for donating £1,420 to our appeal for a grandmother bringing up her 3 grandchildren in very difficult circumstances and to members of the public for donating clothes, toiletries and Christmas gifts for this family.

A huge thank you also goes out to members of the public who purchased gifts for 49 children and young people as part of our Christmas Wishing Tree Appeal.

On behalf of everyone at Kinship Care NI, including Trustees, staff, volunteers, kinship carers and children, THANK YOU!





Bann Valley Road Club



Bishop's Gate Hotel



Daisy Mules



Drumahoe Afterschools Club



Halifax Building Society



Kearney's Bar



Mirror Media



Quayside Dental

We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and organisations who donated toys and hampers and fulfilled the individual Christmas wishes of children. Huge thank you to the pupils at St. Joseph's Boys' School in L'Derry, DeloitteNI, Alley Kat Design, Halifax Building Society, Mirror Media, Seagate, Kearney's Bar, Quayside Dental, Bann Valley Road Club, Marks and Spencer, City Cabs and all the staff at Bishop's Gate Hotel. Thank you also to Sonya Mallon, Catherine Lagan, John Dickie, Martin McGrath, Norman McFarland, Marie Linton, Kelly Ritchie and Kenny McGonigle.



Seagate



St. Joseph's Boys' School

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

THANK YOU

AG
achison + glover

alleykat
design

Alpha
Tech



Deloitte.



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CONTACT
KINSHIP CARE NI

BELFAST

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CHRISTMAS

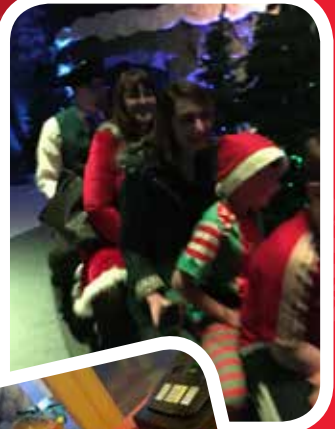
Celebrations



**Mickey's
Once Upon
A Christmas**

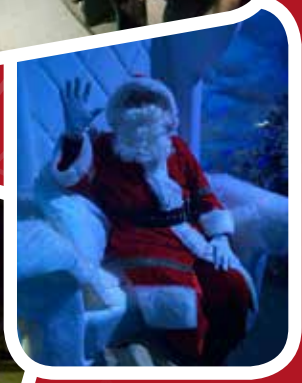
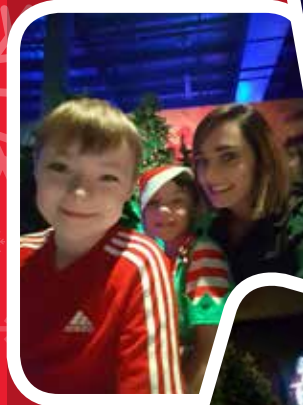


**Winter
Wonderland**



Snow White

**Santa Express
Train**



Tomorrows Leaders Programme

We had an amazing time at launch of the Tomorrows Leaders Programme in Stormont. Thank you to Paula Quigley and Groundworks NI for a fantastic evening.



Thank You ESB

Thank you to James Foley and everyone at the Energy for Generations Fund for €4000 in support of our work with young people in kinship care. We very much appreciate your support.



Presentation Bubblebum

Thank you to Gareth and all the staff at Bubblebum UK for donating fantastic booster seats for children in kinship care. We love them, thank you!



Investor in People

We received our annual visit from Andy Galloway from Investor in People and working towards achieving the Investor in People, Gold Award.



Deloitte Cinema Fundraiser

A massive THANK YOU to Fiona and staff at DeloitteNI for holding a cinema fundraiser and raising £207.00. We very much appreciate your support.



Kindness of Strangers



We would like to thank 8 strangers (Alice, Roberta, Sonya, Michael, Gemma, India, Barry and Anne) who responded to an ask on Facebook and bought one of our young people an Xbox One.

Welcome Sarah and Sarah



Sarah Logue (left), our new Advocacy Worker based in our Kinship Care Support Service and Sarah McLaughlin (right), our new Training and Outreach Worker based in our Kinnections Project are the latest members of our team.

Volunteer Christmas Celebrations

Our amazing volunteers celebrated Christmas in style with a fantastic meal at the Bishop's Gate Hotel in L'Derry. Thank you to all our volunteers for everything you do.



Forthcoming Events

For more information on forthcoming events visit kinshipcareni.com/events/

8th January 2018

Baby and Toddler Group

11th January 2018

Kin Together Support Group West Belfast

18th January 2018

Kin Together Support Group Carrickfergus

11th January 2018

Kin Together Support Group Dungannon

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our work with kinship carers and their children. We would especially like to thank DeloitteNI, Cash for Kids, Buttle UK, BubblebumUK, Kearney's Bar, Bishop's Gate Hotel, Mirror Media, GroundworksNI, Surestart, AlphaTechNI, Asheson and Glover and the Big Lottery Fund - especially Joanne McDowell, Amanda Doherty and Mark Baine.

Thanks also to the Halifax Building Society, Quayside Dental, M&S, Comic Relief, St.Columbs Park House, Age Concern North West, Thomas Cook Children's Charity, Ballymacgoarty and Hazelbank Partnership, Shantallow FabLab, Verbal Arts Centre, W5 and the Millennium Forum. We would also like to thank Newswire, the Derry Journal, Derry News, UTV, CO3 and the North West Volunteer Centre. Special thanks also to Kieran Downey and Tom Cassidy (Western Health and Social Care Trust), Catherine Cassidy (Northern Health and Social Care Trust), Andy Galloway (Investor in People), Robert Hamilton (AlphaTechNI), Dave McCafferty, (CityCabs), Emmet Lynch and Rory McCarron.

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