



CIRCLES AROUND DUNDEE

December

2007

Message from the Editor

Welcome to Issue 3 of the joint Dreamtime/Dreamcatchers newsletter. The last few months have been hectic but exciting at the same time. With referrals for both projects coming in thick and fast, moving offices (again!), organising the Annual Gathering and recruiting new staff, we've hardly had time to draw breath. This issue of the newsletter will give you some idea of the work we've been doing this year and how our projects are helping to shape the lives of the adults and children we work with. I hope you enjoy reading the articles and stories which include:- a visit to BBC Radio Pudsey in Glasgow, our Annual Gathering in the Queen's Hotel, Catherine's new home and much more. Also, on behalf of Circles Around Dundee staff and management committee, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.



Lorraine Kelly sends her
Support to
Circles Around Dundee



We were delighted to have a DVD message from Lorraine to play at our Annual Gathering this year. Here's a transcript of the message:-

" I am really sorry I cannot be with you today at your Annual Gathering. I have heard a lot about the work that Circles Around Dundee does, it's a wonderful charity and the work you do through Dreamcatchers and Dreamtime, supporting adults and children with special needs in the local community is just great.

I have spoken to Gail and she made me aware of the existence of Circles Around Dundee, and I have read the publicity material, and some of your individual stories, it just shows what can be done with the right support.

Clearly, I am an admirer of Circles, particularly the way you put the focus person at the centre of the decision making process to allow them, with encouragement, to consider, discuss and decide what they want to do, whether it's in regard to social activities, life skills or just having fun.

Of course, it's great to see the sponsorship/funding you receive from The Big Lottery, Children in Need, Dundee City Council, Lloyds TSB, the Baily Thomas Fund, The Robertson Trust and Balgay Children's Society to help you with your work in developing Circles Around Dundee.

And, a big thank you to the companies who donated the fantastic items for today's raffle, and to all those who donated their time and energy to make the evening a success.

I will try to help somewhere along the line with a view to helping make your dreams and aspirations come true.

Best wishes to you all, have a great day and hope to meet up with you soon."

Lorraine Kelly

DREAMTIME



Visit to BBC Radio Pudsey, Glasgow

The Autumns are a circle of friends for Rosie Fagan from Our Lady's PS. The Autumns were invited down to the studios at BBC Radio Scotland in Glasgow after being interviewed in school for Children in Need/Radio Pudsey. The interviewer was so Impressed with them, that she asked special permission from her producer, for the circle of friends to visit the studios and meet with a radio presenter, Pudsey bear, have a tour of the new building, and a good time was had by all. A massive thank you and well done to the Autumns.



Discovery Group

Brandon and several other young people had a wonderful time meeting new people and experiencing new activities at the Discovery group which is run in partnership between Dreamtime and Barnardos.



PROGRAMME

- Wk. 1 Arts & Crafts
- Wk. 2 Drama
- Wk. 3 Bollywood Dance
- Wk. 4 Urban Circus
- Wk. 5 Puppet Making
- Wk. 6 Disco

Happy Parents

We thought we'd share this lovely note from a focus child's parents.

"With your input and support, Matthew has been able to establish his circle of friends. He is now much more confident in establishing and maintaining these friendships which was exactly what we needed help to achieve when we contacted you. Many thanks, what a difference!"



"Plays a huge part in ensuring a totally inclusive ethos. Helped raise awareness of needs of others and how pupils can play a role in each other's lives." [Head Teacher](#)

"I think that an awareness of the needs of others has permeated throughout the school and become part of it's ethos, and I am sure that circle of friends has had a major part to play in this." [Principal Teacher Resourced Location](#)

QUOTES about DREAMTIME

"Less stress in playground for Matthew. Less time spent in class dealing with issues." [Head Teacher](#)

"Plays a huge part in our school ethos. Everyone is Included in activities both within and outwith the school." [Head Teacher](#)



A New Home for Catherine

Circles Around Dundee Co-Trainer, Catherine Doig, has been hoping to get her own home and move on for a number of years. She has finally been given keys to a lovely new flat and is getting ready to move house. I spoke to her And asked her about this exciting change she is about to make in her life -



Catherine, tell me about your new home?

I like it, I'm quite happy with my new staff.

When do you move in?

After the new year.

How are you feeling about moving on?

Great, happy, so excited. I'm packing things, mum's helping me.

Have you been doing lots of shopping?

Yes, buying lots and lots of stuff. I like all my furniture; I like my bedroom, my new bed and my living room with my new settee.

What are you looking forward to doing in your own flat?

My own cooking and stuff, ironing and washing my clothes, girl's nights in and party's.

How does it feel to be moving into your own home?

It feels great!

Best wishes to Catherine in her new home from everyone at Circles.

Capacity Thinking Real Inclusion

Dreamcatchers was pleased to arrange a four day training course delivered by Capacity Thinking in April this year. Thanks to funding for this event from the Big Lottery, we were able to offer free places on this four day course. The sessions were aimed at helping those who are supporting people with learning disabilities and autism to get a good life. We were joined by people from Cornerstone, Gowrie Care, Out and About projects, Advocating Together and a circle member. Though an exhausting few days, the training was excellent and Robert and Brenda from Capacity Thinking certainly had staff from Dreamcatchers and Dreamtime feeling inspired and enthused about our work for Circles Around Dundee.



Volunteering Opportunity—Dreamcatchers would like to involve more focus people, family carers, friends and supporters in the production of our newsletter. If you are interested in becoming part of the editorial team or contributing a story, please speak to Gwen, Michelle or Claire.

THE GATHERING 2007



"Say cheese"

We had a fantastic night in the Queen's Hotel this year with around 130 people attending.

We were entertained by the Dundee Strathspey and Reel Society, Urban Circus, and face painters, and Catherine Doig and Beverley Ingram gave presentations about their involvement with Dreamcatchers. Our thanks go to the following organisations/people for their support:-



Louis and Phil



Catherine's presentation



George and Beverley



Urban Circus Entertain

Apex City Quay Hotel; Hilton Hotel; Queen's Hotel; Dundee Strathspey and Reel Society; Urban Circus; Steve Manby; M&B Balloons M&S; Dundee Ice Arena; Liz McColgan Fitness Centre; Tesco; Sainsbury's; Morrison's; Burger King, Kingsway; Asda; Westport Gallery; Odeon Cinema; Forte's Café; Angus Family Butchers; The SkateFactory; Borders Bookshop, and Ashleigh and Gwenda for painting faces.



Dundee Strathspey and Reel Society

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The Baily Thomas
Charitable Fund



The Robertson
Trust

