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NewsLetter

Engaging with and investing in the lives of young people

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

CELEBRATING **10** YEARS



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Oh, what a night! As the gap* celebrated 10 years of working with young people with friends, supporters, volunteers and some of the young people themselves.

Faces and voices from the past were brought together along with some amazing young people, volunteers and our lovely supporters. Some of the young people from Walsall Studio School provided a dance performance and a group of young musicians, playing in public for the first time. It did not take them long to get the 100 strong audience tapping their feet. Gap* founders, Steve Silverton and Charlie Clayton spoke fondly about the gap*'s formation. Volunteers from as far away as New Zealand and Japan send video messages of support. Former Trustee and treasurer, Zoe Lisser was given a special award for her years of service, and the gap*'s latest promotional video was shown whilst the specially invited guests were treated to snacks and drinks. It was a night of celebrating highlights and hearing of the young people who have been impacted by their engagement with the gap*. Zabrina & David ably hosted the evening (though don't ask him about the 'lost quiz!'). It was a chance for people to meet up and give the glory to God as we celebrated together. We are eternally grateful to a loyal group of friends and volunteers who helped make the night such a success.....here's to the next 10 years!

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ANNA FREUD PROJECT

Our Peer Support Mental Health Project in partnership with the Anna Freud Foundation is now well underway with 4 mentors having been through the training programme (as well as having to keep up with their school studies!!). They are currently working with selected mentees before we move to providing evaluations for this first part of the year-long programme. Below Sophie and Amy, two students at Walsall Studio School being interviewed for the gap*s promotional video and Zabrina leading a training session.



Funding....



We are so grateful to some lovely people at the Sutton branch of the West Brom Building Society who chose the gap* as a local project to support via their Mercian Community Trust award. Their generous award of £2000 will go towards our HeadSpace Project. There are also opportunities being explored of the gap* working in partnership with the potential of employees from West Brom branches being able to undertake roles in a volunteer capacity. Pictured above is the gap* receiving the cheque from West Brom Sutton Branch Manager, Joe Watchorn and Retail Manager, Munir Siddique.



Welcome to the team...

Following the recent departure of our youth worker, Rob Jones, we are really excited about having the lovely Laura Ball joining the team. Local girl, Laura comes in to manage the Venue drop-in as well as adding to the HeadSpace rota and helping in developing creative strategies for engaging with young people. She is looking forward to learning more about young people and how she can help make a difference in their lives. She once cycled through three countries in six hours!! She is also a keen dog lover...welcome to gapsville, Laura!



We also welcome these two new lovelies to our HeadSpace volunteer team...



Hi, I am Liv, I have chosen to be part of the HeadSpace team because of all the help they've given me - with the personal experience I have had, I now feel it's my time to give something back. Some of the things I love are working with people, Mac and cheese (now officially my new fave food)....and quavers, OMG, love quavers.

Hello I am Carolyn and have joined the Headspace project because I believe good mental health opens doors to success and I love to help young people become empowered to make the most of the opportunities that come their way. I like to step out of my comfort zone and I once completed a tandem sky-dive for charity. Jumping out of a plane was exhilarating, though my friends thought I was a little crazy - I prayed quite hard before the jump!



Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.

As well as the West Brom award (see left), the gap* has also been recently blessed with funding awards from **The Big Lottery Fund, Alfred Haines Charitable Trust, Squishy, Grantham Yorke Trust, and The Entertainer** (via their 'Jack Gives Back' programme).



This up-turn in income allows us to develop the work we are doing with young people, to expand working hours for our staff and to sustain projects we have begun. This is addition to the fantastic regular financial support we receive from individuals, churches and small businesses around Sutton. We are so grateful to God for His provision over the last ten years of the gap* and we trust in the plans He has for the future of our work.

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The gap* is a Registered Charity. Charity Number 1127347