

A Letter from One of Our Mums

Hello,

I am a mother of 3 children and I would like to say a few things that the HomeStart have been doing to help my family and myself.

We moved to the UK a few years ago and we have no family of our own and don't know anyone. We didn't know what or how things work because every country is different with rules and regulations. And we were introduced to HomeStart, they were like family and very supportive with everything. They showed us all the help and support and up till now they are still supporting me with all the difficulty I am experiencing of everyday life.

I don't know what to do if it wasn't for HomeStart. We have passed through difficult times and they were always there to help and support me. I was unwell and dealing with health problems and one of my children was also not well, they helped me going to hospital and seeing health professionals.

No matter how much I say it's never enough in words to say thank you to all and especially my beloved Mrs Linda Robinson. Thank you for all the volunteers that are helping the other families. And GOD BLESS YOU ALL. LOVE YOU TO BITS.

Rania

Goodbye and Thank You to Pat

Heartfelt thanks goes to Pat Taylor on her retirement. Pat has been our office administrator for the past 9 years and during this time she has been at the heart of the office.

Pat had the ability to keep her head even when those around her are losing theirs; which was quite often!! Her organisation and calm manner has been our saving grace on many occasions. She has demonstrated commitment and dedication to HomeStart and is greatly appreciated by everyone she meets and works with.

When we did occasionally manage to tear her away from her desk, we had great fun. In Thetford forest swinging from tree to tree 20 feet above the ground, is something we will never forget. On a more relaxing day we hired a beach hut and sat leisurely in the sun enjoying each others company. On another occasion we treated ourselves to a spa day and spent our time reflecting on the year gone by. Pat will be greatly missed by her colleagues, management committee, families and volunteers and we all wish her an enjoyable and well deserved retirement.

Home
Start

Support and friendship
for families

Home - Start Uttlesford

Friends of HomeStart Uttlesford are holding another sale of high quality second hand designer/quality adult and older children's clothes and accessories after their highly successful sale last year.

The sale will take place at Anser Gallows Farm, Anso Corner, Hempstead Saffron Walden, CB10 2NU (by kind permission of Brian Hedges) with a preview evening between 6pm and 8pm on Friday 26th March and the sale continuing on Saturday 27th March from 9am -1pm. Admission to the preview evening is £5 and includes a glass of wine. On Saturday admission is £2. There will also be a raffle and light refreshments will be available.



Last years clothes sale.

Welcome to Deborah Flicos who will be joining us from April 1st as our Administrative Assistant. More about Deborah in our next Newsletter, when she has had time to settle in to the Team.

The Home-start Uttlesford Silver Jubilee Quilt 1984 - 2009



Thank you to everyone who made a block or bought tickets to support us!! The raffle, drawn at the Friends of Home-start Uttlesford Christmas Lunch raised an amazing £780. Winner was Mrs H Russell.

Recession Funding Project

Hello to you all. My name is Helen Carter and I am a service user of HomeStart. I am a single mother with a 4 year old boy, called Joe and without the unconditional help and support which HomeStart have given me over the last few years; I doubt very much that I would have been able to cope. We have been through some very rough times and HomeStart have always been there to help me and support me both emotionally and in a practical manner, by helping me with furniture for Joe's room when we moved to Wimbish last year. I am and always will be eternally grateful to HomeStart.

In early November, Deborah Gilder came to see me regarding the recession funding project and she asked me if I would like to become involved in organising the Christmas tombola stall for the late night shopping on 11th December in Saffron Walden. I jumped at the opportunity, as to be able to give just a little bit back to Homestart to thank them for all their help was the least I could do.

So, I set to it! I sent letters out to all HomeStart volunteers, committee members and gave presentations to the parents at both the Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden Support Groups, asking for donations for the stall. I also gave a letter to all my sons parents at his nursery school and Wimbish Primary School and the response was fantastic!!! We were given some fabulous prizes and

as an end result the evening was a big success, raising approximately £190!

This money enabled HomeStart to buy presents for the children of the families who had participated in the recession funding project and also gave the parents of each family a £10 Tesco Gift Card.

I thoroughly enjoyed organising this event and hope that I can become involved in any future fundraising events for HomeStart, a fabulous organisation which really does make a difference where a difference is needed.

Thank you also to all of you, who helped me on the night of the stall, to Vinny, Susan, Deborah, Linda. We were so busy, I could not have managed it without you. Thank you, **Helen Carter**



Feeding the reindeer at the Christmas Outing

100 Club Winners

November - Marion Williams, Annette Daniel, Caroline Griffin

December - Margaret Lines, David Hessayon, Vivian Falk

HomeStart Uttlesford is part of a national charity which supports thousands of families with pre school children across the UK. These families are struggling to cope for many reasons; including illness, disability, bereavement and social isolation. Home-Start volunteers, who have parenting experience themselves, work to build the confidence and encourage the independence of these families. The charity relies on 16,000 trained volunteers throughout the country. Without your support this good work would not be possible

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Home-Start or would like to make a donation or would simply like to find out more about our organisation then please visit our website at www.homestartuttlesford.org.uk or call 01799 520728 or e-mail homestartuttlesford@btinternet.com