

HOW

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

WORKS



Thanks to our Methodist supporters

April 2017



Dear friends,

As we welcome the warmth of Spring, it is my pleasure to update you on Action for Children's work and tell you about the exciting things that are coming up in the next couple of months.

Thank you for your continued support,

Wishing you every blessing,

Karis Kolawole
Head of Faith Partnerships

Methodist Conference

Action for Children will be at the Methodist Conference from 22 to 27 June where we will have a market stall and on 27 June we will be holding a fringe event about our role in the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness. If you will be at the conference come and say hello or you can register for our fringe event, Fighting Loneliness: How Action for Children Works on the website <http://tinyurl.com/l2pjds3>.

Step Out for Children

This year's Step Out for Children brochure is enclosed for you to see and consider taking part in one of our lovely walks throughout the UK. You could get a group of friends together and make a day of it at one of our country or coastal locations. Last year, Step Out raised an amazing £24,000! Please help us exceed this total in 2017.

The link to the Step Out page is here actionforchildren.org.uk/step-out

Action for Children Sunday

This year, the designated Action for Children Sunday is on 9 July. Many staff and volunteers, including myself, will be at a worship service joining Methodist Churches and URC to celebrate, reflect and thank God for the difference Action for Children is making in the lives of thousands of children and families throughout the UK.

There is still time to plan a special service, if you haven't already. With this letter, you will find a booklet which sets out a worship outline that you can adapt and use in your church. Extra copies are available, (along with supplies of prayer bookmarks and gift envelopes) from your local fundraiser or you can download them from our website actionforchildren.org.uk/methodistfundraising. We would be happy to send a speaker from Action for Children for your service; just call or email your local community fundraiser (see the enclosed contact sheet) and they will arrange that for you.

Our fundraisers are available any time of the year to do talks at your church, fellowship group, schools or events. Just get in touch and they will be happy to advise you and provide fundraising materials.

District Advocates needed

Across the Methodist Districts we have some amazing people who represent us and spearhead activity to raise funds and awareness of Action for Children's work. Our District Advocates are inspirational people and they do a fantastic job by:

- Being an Action for Children ambassador and promoting our work among Methodist supporters in their District and the local community.
- Making sure that information flows regularly between the churches in their District and Action for Children.
- Always looking for new opportunities to work effectively in partnership together.

We are aiming to **have an advocate for every district** to help us reach out into all communities across the UK. So, if you or someone you know would like to find out about this rewarding role, please get in touch with your local community fundraiser or myself.

The new £1 coin

As you may be aware, the 28 March saw the introduction of a new £1 coin with the legal tender status of the round £1 coin set to be withdrawn on the 15 October 2017. A poster is enclosed which explains a little more about what this means for those of you who bank money for us. However, the new £1 Coin is a fantastic opportunity to encourage people to donate their first £1 to Action for Children. We are running an online campaign on our Facebook Pages encouraging people to donate their #First£1. Your local fundraiser can also supply you with posters so you can encourage others to do the same.



Community Swap n Shop

We have a new initiative, 'Community Swap n Shop', which is about helping parents with confidence building and skills for life - supporting those who may be experiencing isolation after moving to a new area, or those who want a helping hand into work.

We run Community Swap n Shop in some of our Children's Centres, and parents there have got involved by sorting donated clothing, labelling, pricing and getting the items ready for sale. They also have the opportunity to take up free, formal training towards a qualification in business enterprise and customer service as well as e-learning on a wide range of subjects. To celebrate Action for Children Sunday, why not hold your very own Community Swap n Shop jumble sale within your church, and create a real community event. Have a spring clear-out and bring people together for a chance to enjoy a chat, shop and get to know each other.

Thank you!

We were blown away by the amount The Methodist Church raised from creative Christmas events and our Christmas card sales! To date you have raised over £225,000. That's no mean feat and we are so grateful; thank you!



Why am I receiving this mailing?

You are receiving this mailing because our records show you are the Action for Children named contact for your Church, Circuit or District. It is important that you share the information in this pack, encouraging others to support us and continue building on Action for Children's partnership with The Methodist Church. If you feel you no longer want to take on this role, then please do not hesitate to contact your local fundraiser, and we will amend our records.



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