

Birmingham CAB Fundraising Supporter News



OVER £105,000 RAISED SO FAR THIS YEAR - THANK YOU!

Individuals, businesses and Grant Making Trusts have helped us to raised over £105,000 since April this year, which is an absolutely fantastic amount.

£75,000 in our 75th Year between January-December 2014. But we need your continued support to make these events a success. Check out our information on page 4 for how you can get involved.

Although some of this money will be used for special projects (more updates on those later on), some of it will also be used to train our volunteers and ensure people get access to the advice they need. People like Louisa, who through a diagnosis of cancer can be left struggling to make ends meet.

And if you've left your Christmas shopping until the last minute (as many of us do), don't forget that you can shop with The Giving Machine for free to raise extra cash for Birmingham CAB.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and for helping us to achieve such a fantastic amount in time for Christmas!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PROJECT UPDATES	2
LOUISA'S STORY	2
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?	3
THE GIVING MACHINE	3
SAVE THOSE STAMPS!	3
75TH BIRTHDAY	4
THANK YOU!	5
ZUMBATHON	6

Next year is our 75th Birthday and we have lots of exciting events planned. We want to raise



If you're a Blues supporter, look out for our advert in the 2014 Diary of Birmingham City FC!

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PROJECT UPDATES

Alongside delivering our advice in bureau and at our outreach locations, we will be running a series of special projects to support communities across the city:

Focused Finance in Prisons - this project has already begun in HMP Birmingham and has received full funding for its first year. The link between debt and reoffending is well-recognised and so this project aims to support offenders with their finances before they leave prison, reducing the risk of re-offending. So far we have supported 83 offenders by opening bank accounts for them and explaining why it is important to have a bank account

Hidden Stars - these are Birmingham's young adult carers, aged 16-18. Often their issues are overlooked and so our project aims to provide advice and support to ensure these stars can access the same opportunities many other teenagers take for granted. We have received over £7,000 for this project. **However, we still need an additional £50,000 to ensure it can go ahead.**

Youth Social Action Team - our youth social action team of 12 people aged 16-24 will visit Birmingham's communities to find out the issues that matter to people and to campaign for change at a local and national level. We have already received £5,000 towards this project, but **we need another £30,000 to ensure it can go ahead.**

If you would like any further details about these projects, please do email us.

LOUISA'S STORY

Your generous donations have helped people like Louisa - frail, alone and living with cancer:

Louisa* is 86 and has been diagnosed with terminal oesophageal cancer. She is a widow who lives alone and she is very frail. She pays her bills on time but due to the increased cost of living with cancer, such as keeping the heating on to keep well, she was struggling to make ends meet. As she lives alone, she did not know what support she was entitled to in order to help her through this difficult time.

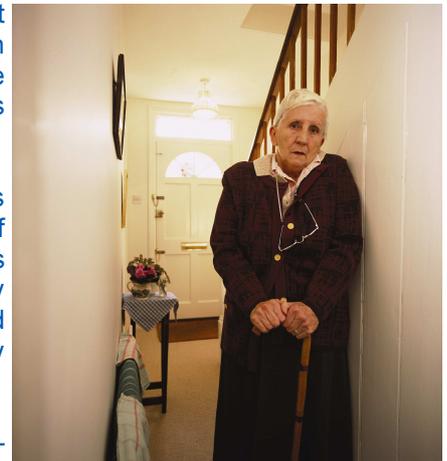
Louisa called us as she was too ill to visit us in person. Our specialist advisors explained that she was entitled to more money under the High Rate Care of Attendance Allowance. Louisa was extremely worried about filling in the forms and wondered how she could cope with this at a time when she was already coming to terms with her diagnosis. However, our team explained that she did not have to worry as we would complete the forms for her. Louisa was very grateful and was less anxious by the end of the phone call.

We sent the appropriate forms and Louisa was awarded additional income – meaning she did not have to worry about money and could concentrate on keeping herself warm and comfortable.

Louisa was thrilled :

“I couldn't have asked for a more friendly or helpful service. It really helped to have people do things for me and it is good to know someone cares”

She also generously donated £10.00 to our charity – which will enable us to support two more people like Louisa who are living with cancer and don't know where else to turn.



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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Our fundraisers have pounded the streets, thrown darts and bag packed over the past 3 months to make sure our charity can continue to provide its essential services to those who want to move forward with their lives.

Great Birmingham Run



Our fantastic runners - Gavin, Nicole and Martina - took part in the Great Birmingham Run on 20th October. Big thanks for taking the time and dedication to train and run the gruelling half marathon for us, while raising funds too!

Darts Night

Jean Bushell, one of our long-serving volunteers, organised a great darts night at the Crown Hotel, Corporation Street, on 8th November. This has raised over £400 - well done Jean!

Bag Packs and Collections

We have raised £323.84 in bag packs since September. Many thanks to ASDA Quinton and M&S Simply Food (Princess Park) for allowing us to collect in your stores.

THE GIVING MACHINE

Got last minute Christmas shopping? Don't forget that you can donate to Birmingham CAB without having to spend a penny extra when shopping online with The Giving Machine. It is completely free to use and sign up - visit www.thegivingmachine.co.uk to get started now!



SAVE THOSE STAMPS!

Please make sure to save all of your Christmas envelope stamps for Birmingham CAB. We have recently embarked on a new partnership with Fundraising Stamps and will receive £10 for every 1 kilo of stamps we send. Please send these into the Fundraising Department, Birmingham CAB, Gazette Buildings, 168 Corporation Street, Birmingham, B4 6TF.



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75TH BIRTHDAY

Next year Birmingham CAB is 75 years old. We have many fun events and activities planned to mark this historic occasion, showing how we went from this:



To this:



But we need your help.

We need you to share your stories of Birmingham CAB on film, on audio and for a book celebrating our history. Have you been a client of our service - how did we help? Or perhaps you have been a volunteer and want to share your story of why you volunteered for us?

Whatever your connection to Birmingham CAB, we need as many people as possible to contribute their memories. So if you are interested in getting involved, please contact Katherine on 0121 683 6900 or via email: leinsterk@bcabs.org.uk.

Here are just some of the events we have planned for next year:

Zumbathon (more on this later on!)
 Skydiving
 Golf Day
 Quiz Nights
 Street Collections
 Film Nights
 Networking



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THANK YOU

As we come to the end of 2013, we want to say a big thank you to all businesses, philanthropic organisations and Grant Making Trusts who have supported us since April this year:

Coutts Charitable Trust
 Carillion Group Appeals Committee
 The Michael Marsh Charitable Trust
 Lord Mayor of Birmingham
 Harborne Parish Lands Charity
 Bromsgrove Methodist Church Centre
 Selfridges
 Jurys Inn Chelsea
 Dudley Zoological Gardens
 ASDA Kings Heath
 Baron Davenport's Charity
 William A. Cadbury Trust
 KrayZKiz
 Hatton Farm Village
 The Mary Kinross Charitable Trust
 SGH Martineau LLP
 The Neuro Foundation
 Drayton Manor
 Virgin Trains
 Bernard Piggott Charitable Trust
 Evan Cornish Foundation
 Rotary Club of Erdington
 No 5 Chambers
 Henry Smith Charity
 DBS Law
 mac birmingham
 The Richard Cadbury Charitable Trust

Hall Green Probus Club
 Sutton Coldfield Methodist Church
 Service Birmingham
 The Clothworkers' Foundation
 Rotary Club of Birmingham Breakfast
 Build-A-Bear Workshop
 NEC
 The Jarman Charitable Trust
 Sainsbury's Mere Green
 Cooker Clean Company
 Hotel du Vin
 Rotary Club of Edgbaston Convention
 The Black Country Living Museum
 The Midland Legal Support Trust
 The Dumbreck Charity
 The Albert Hunt Trust
 The M K Rose Charitable Trust
 Skipton Building Society Charitable Foundation
 Body Shop at Home
 Henry James Sayer Charity
 Land Rover Charity Fund
 The Saintbury Trust
 ASDA Quinton
 Marks and Spencer Princess Park
 The Oakley Charitable Trust



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ONE DAY YOU MIGHT NEED US, RIGHT NOW WE NEED YOU...

...TO TAKE PART IN OUR ZUMATHON!



17th January 2014

Back by popular demand, Birmingham CAB's Zumbathon will be held this year at the University of Birmingham Dance Studio between 7.30pm-10pm. The talented instructors from Zumba Central will be leading the fun-filled dance session.

All over 16s are welcome so please bring along your family and friends to shake off those extra Christmas pounds!

For a registration pack please email fundraising@bcabs.org.uk or call the Fundraising Team on 0121 236 5700

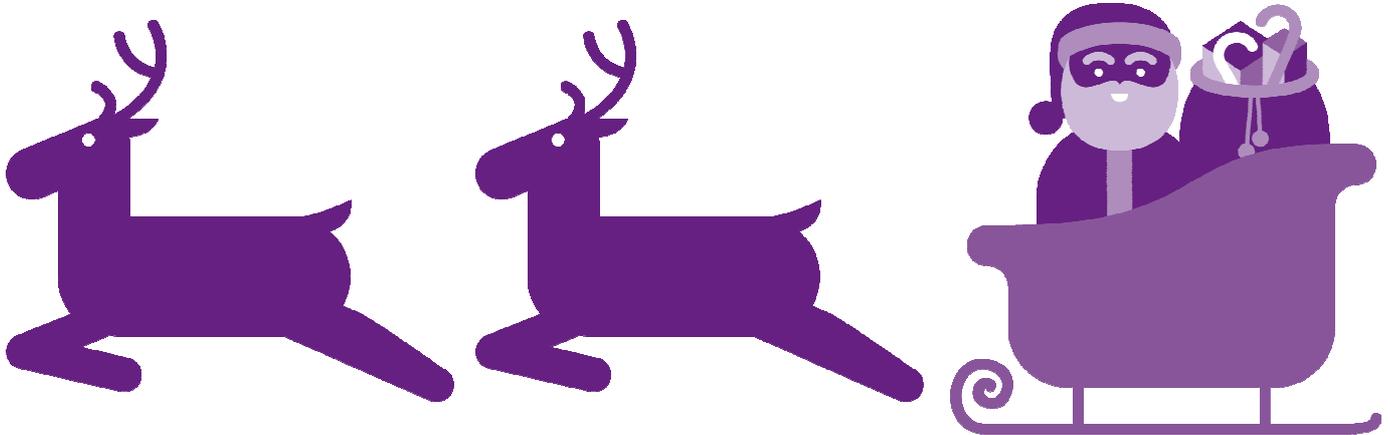


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BirminghamCAB

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS BREAK!



Thank you for your ongoing support—it really is appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved with any of our other fundraising activities, or would like further information about the work we are doing, please contact us on fundraising@bcabs.org.uk or by calling 0121 236 5700.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have supported Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau in the past 5 years. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please fill out this slip and email to fundraising@bcabs.org.uk or post it to: Fundraising Department, Birmingham CAB, Ground Floor, Gazette Buildings, 168 Corporation Street, Birmingham, B4 6TF. Your details will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be shared with any third parties. Thank you.

Name (print please):

Address:

Reason for no longer receiving newsletter:

* Please note Louisa's name on page 2 has been changed to protect her identity and the photo has been posed by a model.

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