

Community Learning and
Development
Woodburn Primary School
5 Cousland Road
Dalkeith
EH22 2PS

Education and Children's Services

Director
Don Ledingham

Midlothian

26 April 2013

Director, Corporate Resources
Midlothian House
Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith



Dear Sir

Dalkeith Common Good Fund / Bequests for the Poor

I am writing to ask if families attending a summer holiday project called 'Play in the Park', based in Woodburn, could be considered for funding from one of the above bequests. I am specifically looking for £400 to cover the cost of feeding families attending the project.

Play in the Park was developed as a result of perceived and actual need within Woodburn during the school summer holiday period. It is a weekly project operating on Wednesdays. Referred families come together for lunch and then an afternoon of free activities. Last year it operated over four weeks, this year due to funding constraints in all partners it will operate for three weeks. The strengths of the project are as follows

- a number of agencies are involved in the projects' delivery, both statutory and voluntary;
- by involvement in the previous years, statutory staff such as Police, Social Workers have been able to build different and positive relationships with families that they sometimes find themselves in conflict with;
- families consistently say that they do not feel 'judged' at this project and that their skills and confidence in their parenting abilities improves;
- the majority of families who have previously taken part in the project are on benefits, living in poverty, and appreciate having a lunch that is healthy and of good quality (eg provision of fresh fruit and vegetables);
- all of the families referred are also vulnerable and at risk, and benefit from a regular fixture in their week;
- families can find the long summer holidays a difficult period without the safety nets of both school and access to free school meals provision;
- The purpose of Play in the Park is to encourage families to play together, using free or cheap activities and ideas that we hope they will then feel confident to also do at home.

Last /

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

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Last year Play in the Park Woodburn was attended by 13 families, comprising 13 adults and 28 children (23 families were actually referred but then found that frequently changing circumstances impacted on their actual attendance).

Some of the Play in the Park families then begin to access other provision, having been introduced to staff/ideas at Play in the Park, eg library services, adult literacy and numeracy provision, community based adult learning provision.

"I will most remember the food and the activities"

"At the Play in the Park project you feel able to ask questions without feeling judged!"

"You can ask for help without getting questioned about it"

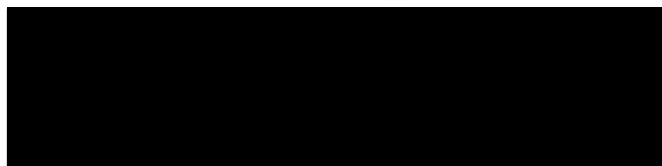
"Staff 'listen to you'"

"I will remember the fun my kids had"

"Play in the Park gave me ideas for free or cheap things to do in the house"

I hope that this letter gives you enough information to consider the request for £400. I am however happy to provide more information if requested.

Yours faithfully



Gael Belton
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