



# ANNUAL REPORT 2009







## **Chairpersons Foreword**

The Board of Trustees are delighted with the effort and achievement of our staff and volunteers. The continued success of the organisation is celebrated by everyone involved.

We are particularly proud of the involvement of young people which is made possible by the willingness and enthusiasm of our adult staff and volunteer teams. Young people bring energy, ideas and fun which benefit us all. Their achievements this year are significant, please read through this report to see the range of activities and training completed. We feel it is so important to give young people opportunities to shine and also to give them recognition for what they achieve.

Please do tell others about the young people supporting Local Aid.

Local Aid supports some of the poorest wards in Wales. The incidence of SEN/Disability is higher than 20%, unemployment and poor health at an all time high. In this current recession the organisation has to work hard to maintain funding for the projects to run. Local Aid's manager has had a successful year working with the trustees to monitor current funding and demonstrate value. The current recession will continue to test us, the organisation's work to support some of the most vulnerable groups is more important than ever. We will continue to need the help of many individuals and local business and trusts that have supported us. Thank you very much.

We are committed to inclusion and focus all our activities to support this. We are particularly successful in helping our volunteers and sessional workers into employment through excellent accredited courses and hands on experience. Through their time with Local Aid people gain a better understanding of children and adults whose behaviours can sometimes be challenging. Other activities support the effort of all agencies and communities to build a better future, working toward inclusion.

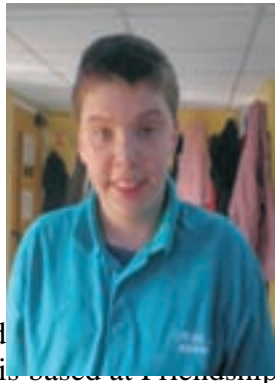
Thank you to staff, volunteers and supporters for another successful Year

*Denise Inger*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

## Project and activities in brief:

**Buddies** This is an all day Saturday club run 49 weeks a year. Children and young people aged 8 to 18 who have severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviour are supported by staff and volunteers to have FUN, Make choices, make friends, develop social skills. This service is based at Friendship House in Swansea.



**Riding Therapy** Run 50 weeks a year, sessions are held at Cimla Riding School Neath in partnership with ABM NHS trust. Young people with physical and sensory difficulties are supported to become confident with horses. Riding therapy improves balance, mobility, fine and gross motor skills, confidence, concentration and tolerance to animals, as well as engaging in a community activity and gaining an awareness of the environment.

**Schools' Challenge** 5 days of fun, mud and water! This event is held in Gnoll Park Neath during June each year. 65 schools took part, with over 2,000 children and young people participating in 2009. Young people with special educational needs are encouraged to take part in activities alongside their mainstream peers. This event is run in partnership with ABM Trust



Physiotherapists and is supported by 20 organisations/agencies, with 300 volunteers and professional involved.

**“Hands On”/Training Project** This is an intergenerational community participation project based within our charity shops (Ravenhill Morryston, and Uplands). Funded by the Big Lottery People and places this project started in September 08. The target beneficiaries are adults who volunteer within the shops who will act as mentors young people who are identified as being at risk from social exclusion; those with challenging behaviour, those who are disengaged from formal educational patterns and those who have special or additional educational needs and age 14 to 16. The programme encourages participants to gain skills and experiences as well as a range of Open College Network Credits (OCN) certificates which are retail related.

**Young Volunteers** This project is aimed at engaging young people age 15 to 25 in to volunteering opportunities within their community. Encouraging community engagement has resulted in support for our charity and individuals gaining skills, abilities and ambitions among young people who will by the end of the programme will have enhanced their future career/job opportunities. This work experience scheme has been evaluated by schools, students and volunteers; everyone has gained from this hugely successful project.



### *Acknowledgments*

BBC Children in Need  
Big Lottery Fund - People and Places  
Big Lottery Awards For All  
Big Lottery Make it Happen Fund  
City & County of Swansea:-  
Social Services  
Cymorth  
Compact  
Swansea Play Fund  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Communities First  
WCVA Millennium Volunteer Fund  
Swansea Council for Voluntary Service  
New Deal  
Neath/ Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service  
HSBC Bank  
Swansea NHS Trust Children's Therapy Team  
Bro Morganwg Children Therapy Team  
South & West Wales Fire Service  
Cimla Fire station  
Foundation for Sports and Arts  
Princes Trust  
Tesco Fforestfach  
CSSIW Staff  
National Probation Service  
South Wales Crime Probation Unit  
Friendship House  
Swansea Mencap  
Afan Valley Paddlers  
DVLA  
Forestry Commission  
Maxess Scaffolding Ltd  
Gorsienon College  
John Collins and Partners  
Logica  
Leo Abse & Cohen  
SCVS Swansea Youth Bank

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT***

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To be recognised as a leading local voluntary agency supporting the needs of those most vulnerable in our communities, raising awareness of the opportunities for inclusion in all aspects of community life.



### **Charity Aims**

To promote supported activities to improve the quality of life for children, young people and community special needs and their families.

To help to provide specialist equipment not readily available through normal statutory sources.

To support families experiencing hardship where travel to out of county specialist children's hospitals and centres is needed.

To raise public awareness of the needs and aspirations of young people with disabilities in the community.

### **VOLUNTEERS VACANCIES CALL US**

#### **Working with children with disabilities**

Contact Amanda Lervy -01792 515050

#### **Supporting adults with Learning difficulties**

Contact Sue Moss 07807675255

**Charity Shop/Collection** Contact Volunteer Debbie Grimshaw 01792 794673

### **Trustees 2008 - 2009**

Chairperson Denise Inger

Treasure Terrence Basil Richardson

Secretary Sandra Anne Mylan

Marie Powell

James Price

Nigel Steven Williams

Lawrence Donald Mylan

Linda Wellington



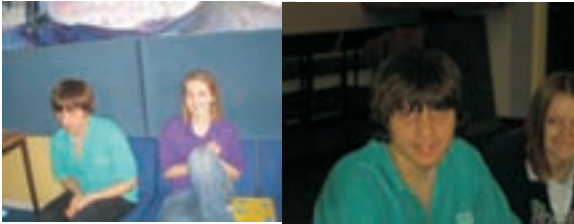
## Staff 08 - 09

Staffing has remained largely unchanged this year.

Amada Lervy Projects Manager F/T  
David Thomas Driver / Mentor F/T  
Natalie Jacob/ Laura Alford Buddies youth worker P/T  
Simon Dark / Sue Moss -Training Officer P/T

## New Posts for 08/09

Aileen Flynn Hands on Tutor F/T  
Terrie Cousins School link worker P/T  
Sue Moss Admin P/T



Additionally we have 6 activity leaders who work on a Saturday at Buddies, this is made up of an average of 12 sessional workers, who work on a rota based system in order to achieve consistency and maximise flexibility. All are trained or working towards NVQ level 3 or equivalent, 3 members of the team are qualified teachers with a further 3 qualified nursery nurses.

## Community Participation

Our charity shops are able to offer an important community resource by providing low cost affordable clothing, bedding, furniture and household goods. This year an estimated **400 tonnes** of clothing and textile destined for landfill have been reused or recycled. **1000's of items** of furniture has been reused in the community, decreasing landfill.

The Charity shops have provided emergency/ crisis aid to people and families in need by operating a referral based system from multi agency social care workers.

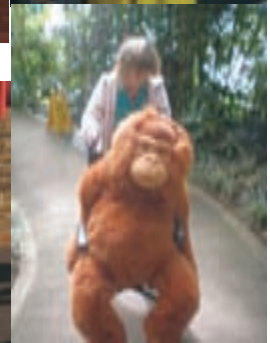
***All goods donated by the community and local businesses are used for the community and the profits are then used to support local the community special needs.***



## TRAINING

Over the past year staff and volunteers have completed training in:

Local Aid induction programme  
Autism Awareness  
First Aid Out Doors  
Health and Safety  
Internal verification OCN  
NVQ Level 4 management  
IOSH- Safety management  
Health & Safety  
Code of Conduct & Behaviour  
Disability Awareness  
First Aid at Work  
Equal Opportunities  
Child Protection  
Protection of Vulnerable Adults  
Epilepsy Awareness  
Play Skills  
Pamova  
Participation workshops  
Drugs Awareness  
Risk assessment  
Food Hygiene  
Managing Challenging Behaviour  
Retail Skills  
ITC Skills  
Handling Money  
Stock Control  
Customer Service  
Volunteer Management  
Code of practice in Volunteering  
Open College network Assessment training  
Open College network internal meditation training  
Sports Leadership Awards



**OPEN COLLEGE NETWORK WALES  
(OCN Wales )Credits**

All new volunteers have attended induction training, this includes:

- Over 200 volunteers for School Challenge.
- 70 volunteers at Buddies
- 30 Charity Shop volunteers

Nationally recognised qualifications awarded via OCN at level Entry/One/Two

- 80 credit at Buddies
- 45 credits in adult/community training programme
- 130 Credits at “Hands On”



Activities & Events for young people with severe disabilities and siblings. Our staff and volunteers have provided support and enthusiasm. We have been to:.

- Folly Farm
- Oakwood Park
- Techniquist
- Cardiff Bay Millennium Centre
- Bowling
- Heatherton
- Cinema
- Chrystal Maze
- Caswell Bay
- Snac Port Talbot



This partnership run by City and County of Swansea Regeneration Team has continued to be extremely fruitful with volunteers at Buddies and young people with Special Needs working on life skills.

The aim is that all young people will gain credits in recognition for out of school leisure and learning activities. Almost any activity that takes place out of school hours can be registered. There are three sections of the Children's University:

- Kids' College (ages 5-8)
- Children's University (ages 9-13)
- Youth University (ages 14-19)

Local Aid has continued its unique framework, where two groups of young people get accredited at the same time!

The Buddies themselves get credit for the activities they take part in on a Saturday where they learn valuable life skills such as making a hot drink, making a telephone call or taking a journey on public transport. The young volunteers who help them also get credit with the Youth University for the voluntary work they do at Friendship House enabling the Buddies to learn new skills.

There are 24 modules have been registered by Local Aid and they are broken down in to 2 categories:

Life , social & independence skills aimed at enabling young people with severe learning difficulties to achieve recognition for their learning

Social care field work experience learning aimed at young volunteers in order to recognise their achievements whilst participating in out of school learning

On average of 4 modules are achieved by each of our young volunteers and their “Buddy” via Youth University

Total of **4.480** individual training hours have been delivered to young people this year.

We have 40 young people registered and 23 of these have gained a very impressive Bronze award - which is the equivalent to 150 credits and Two young people who has achieved 350 credits which is a silver award.

Quote from a Parent “I am really impressed with this part of the project. In relation to my son, he is not likely to gain many certificates so the youth university really mean something him and all of us. Achievement's made such as being able to make a snack, or understand road safety may only seem very small to other but to us as a family they are of huge importance.”



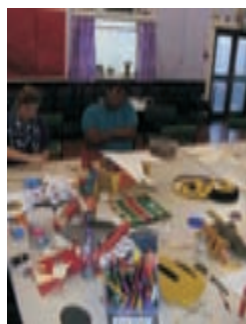
## MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

Millennium Volunteers have been an integral part of Buddies. Volunteer's age 16 to 24 year olds have been “Buddies” to young people where they have mentored young people with severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviour. They have gained invaluable skills themselves in Disability Awareness, Communication Skills, Team Work, and Supporting Others.

**20 Awards of Excellence** (200 hours) have been awarded during this year and further **16 awards** for 100 hours have also been achieved by young people age 16 to 25.

## BUDDIES

“Buddies” has continued to grow from strength to strength. The needs on young people being the priority for this much loved service by young people and their families who are able to access Fun quality play and leisure opportunities.



Based at Friendship House Swansea we provide much needed support for children and young people age 8 to 18 that have severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviour.

All young people are supported on a one to one basis, whilst they may find it difficult accessing other services at Buddies young people are able to get involved in a wide range of activities that promotes both social and life skill such as cookery, shopping, ordering from a restaurant, time, money and road safety.

An increased waiting list demonstrates a great need and the popularity for the service

The aims are to:

- ✍ To promote fun, choice opportunities for young people
- ✍ Support the siblings, parents and carers of young people with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour.
- ✍ Encourage volunteer and young volunteers to support the project in order for them to gain skills and experience in active citizenship.
- ✍ Provide quality training, for staff, volunteers and parents
- ✍ Build capacity to support inclusion.



Hywel & Amiee

## Activities include:

Sports; Arts & Crafts; Music and Drama; Puppets; Visits to local amenities; Bowling; Cinema; Cookery; Swimming; Board games; Construction Play and much more!!

This year 26 families have directly benefited from Buddies a total of 432 Sessions have been provided equating to **2,865 hours of service** at the Buddies Saturday provision.

A range of skills and experiences developed including:

- Road safety
- Money skills
- Story telling
- Music and dance
- Sharing and turn taking
- Cookery basic techniques making a snack, making a cup of tea
- Ordering food at a café
- Purchasing items at shop
- Time
- Money
- Personal hygiene
- Keeping safe

**Outreach** funded via Lloyds TSB. We have been fortunate enough to provide a service and get to know some of the young people on the Buddies Waiting List due to the extra support given to Buddies from Lloyds TSB. This has been of huge benefit to all as staff have been able to visit young people in their own homes, get to know them as assess their individual needs, whilst young people and their families have benefited from extra activities either within the service base or community based activities such as swimming, visits to museum, local parks,

**Summer Club Summer 09.** Funding has been secured for the first time for us to run additional activities for the summer holidays which will provide direct support to families



### **SCHOOLS CHALLENGE**

Schools Challenge is a 5 day event held annually in June. This year's challenge weather was largely fine, with the exception of one day, however that did not mean that participants went home DRY!.

The aims of the event are to help children with special needs of all ages to compete for their schools whilst participate in activities that they would normally find difficult due to their mobility and/or learning difficulties. With the help of their friends, carers and physiotherapists the children have to take part in some extraordinary challenges in order to reach their full potential. Each day around 300 children, with their respective teachers present from 71 schools throughout Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Llanelli and Bridgend took part.

### **Partners and Supporters**

SCVS Development Fund  
 ABM University NHS Trust  
 Gnoll Park Fairyland Neath  
 Mid and West Wales Fire service  
 Cimla Fire Station  
 Community Safety Police Service  
 National Probation Service

Princes Trust  
 Gorsienon College  
 DVLA  
 Business in the Community  
 Logic

71 schools took part in the event and over 1500 children and young people endeavoured to complete 35 different challenges. For many this is the highlight to the academic year, the smile on the faces of the young people taking part says it all.

### **Some of the Quotes for evaluation**

**“ Fantastic this the best day ever”**  
**“ Can we have more mud & more water”**  
**“Very Well organised an well Run event”**  
**We want 2 Schools Challenge per year”**

### **35 Challenges included:**

Tree zip line, Stocks, Fire hose assisted Belly Slide, Fire Service Smoke House, Ski pole team  
 Police Obstacle Course, Bouncy Castle  
 Giant Jenga, Raft Balancing, Blind rope trail

The Challenge theme was 'HEROES' we had lots of teams representing their personal heroes; Super Heroes and Sporting Heroes. A huge effort was made by everyone, fantastic costumes, loud, fun chants and heaps of enthusiasm all through the 5 day event. Thank you to all our guests including Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Neath Port Talbot, Lieut.Commander Jill Johnson and Colin Johnson MBE. We all enjoyed meeting with you, especially the children.

### Winners Table

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Blaen Baglan Primary  | Dewi Phillips Daily Winner  |
| Blaendulais Primary   | Best Costume                |
| Catwg Primary         | Team Work Award             |
| Cefn Saeson           | Kirsty Hill Daily Winner    |
| Cwrt Sart Comp        | Daffyd McAulay Daily Winner |
| Daniel James Comp     | Best Costume                |
| Danygraig Primary     | Team Work Award             |
| Dylan Thomas Comp     | Best Chant                  |
| Glanymor Primary      | Best Costume                |
| Groes Primary         | Team Work Award             |
| Groes Primary         | Team Work Award             |
| Hafod Primary         | Best Chant                  |
| Maesmarchog Primary   | Kyle Morris Daily Winner    |
| Morryston Primary STF | Team Work Award             |
| Sandfields Comp       | Best Chant                  |
| Tonmawr Primary       | Best Chant                  |
| Tregwyr Juniors       | Team work Award             |
| Tywyn Primary         | Ewan Rogers Daily Winner    |
| Waunarlwydd Primary   | Best Chant                  |
| Ysgol Bryn Castell    | Best Costume                |
| Ysgol Hendre          | Best Costume                |

|                  |                                                         |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Overall Achiever | Maesmarchog Primary<br>Kyle Morris                      |
| CUP Winner       | Overall Highest score<br>Clase Primary                  |
| CUP Winner       | Best Overall Chant -<br>Wauarlydd Primary<br>CUP Winner |



## HANDS ON

This is a new exciting project funded for the next three year by the Big lottery People and Places fund. Launched in September 08 Local Aid have been working with local comprehensive schools actively engaged young people to participate in retail related work experience.

Schools and providers we are currently working n partnership with include:

Penybryn Special School  
Cefn Hengoed  
Comprehensive  
Daniel James  
Comprehensive  
Dylan Thomas  
Community School  
Olchfa Comprehensive  
Bishop Gore comprehensive  
Swansea College  
Step A head  
Careers Wales West  
Ysgol Gyfn Gwyr  
Swansea College Transition to Adulthood

The project is aimed at engaging and educating participants through experiences that are work related and increase volunteering/ community participation. Young people also gain a greater understanding of environmental issues, disability, Inclusion and increased awareness of the needs and aspiration of young people and community special needs. The project brings people of all different ages and abilities to work /volunteer together.

## EXAMPLES OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES ON OFFER :

Health and Safety  
Shop and counter work  
Money skills  
Recycling / Environmental issues  
Disability Awareness  
Communication Skills  
Customer Care  
Marketing/publicity  
Telephone skills  
Stock control  
Representing a voluntary organisation  
Understanding of the roles charities  
Self esteem / Taking responsibility  
Increased citizenship responsibilities in local communities  
Time keeping and reliability for work



From September 08 to June 09 59 young people have been supported all gaining at least 2 OCN Wales accredited units via OCN. For many this would have been the first positive learning experience outside of school, where they have been able to achieve actual recognition for their hard work.

## VOLUNTEER ADDITIONALLY

Volunteers continue to support all of our projects and activities and without them we would not be able to do what we do.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL**

## Volunteer activity includes:

Trustees /Management Committee  
Steering groups/project focusing  
Shop Volunteers staffing charity shops  
Collection and Delivery  
Stock control / recycling  
Supporting children with disabilities  
Supporting adults with disabilities  
Fundraising  
Street collectors  
Admin support

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

Schools Challenge 200 volunteers achieving approximately 4,000 volunteer hours averaging 20 hours per person

### Buddies

81 young people recruited

67 young people achieved 50 hrs,

35 young people achieved 100hrs

20 young people achieved 200hrs plus

20 Millennium Volunteers awards presented

25 young people have gained sports leader qualification contributed an impressive 8,336 hours of support to children and young people with severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviour an average of 102 hours each

Charity Shop volunteers and trustees  
52 volunteers have clocked up a massive 13,104 hours between them, some giving more than 20 hours a week.

NEW Volunteers always Welcome

The baseline notional monetary value @ £8 per hour = £203,520



### PARTNERSHIPS & PARTICIPATION

Wales Council for Voluntary Action  
Council Voluntary Services Swansea & Neath /Port Talbot

Children's Forum

Swansea Volunteer Forum

Participation working group

Swansea Poverty Action Network

Swansea Lifelong Learning

Children & Young People

Partnership

Swansea Charities partnership

Refugee & Asylum Seeker Network

14 to 19 Network

Swansea Youth Service Professional Youth Network



Local Aid is one of six local charities who have joined together to promote payroll giving amongst business and agencies. Employees give just one small monthly donation from pre-tax salary and the funds raised are shared equally between the seven charities and also eighth community pot that will be used to help smaller voluntary organisations that find it hard to attract support, for example clubs for the elderly and playgroups.

Other charities involved in partnership are:

**Local Aid**                      **Women's Aid**  
**Age Concern Swansea**  
**Cyrenians**                      **Discovery**  
**Swansea Community Farm**



