

A News Update from Parent and Child Together North East – June 2017

We wanted to give you a brief update on progress with PACTNE at Eagle House in Darlington. We have been the recipients of a great deal of kindness and generosity which is very humbling and motivating. Thank you to all from St Marys who supported our **Spring Fundraising Dinner event** on 12th May, whether by giving prizes for the auction and raffle or attending. We raised over £2,000 and in addition we received several personal donations.

Other exciting developments include a generous offer from the Darlington Building Society to build an **allotment and garden project** which will give us eight raised beds and a greenhouse area for families to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. The Society will pay all costs and a group of their staff will volunteer to make this happen by early July. The benefits to the physical and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable families will be great.

We have had a number of volunteers on site and more recently this has included two groups of young people from British Youth for Christ the first of which was a Texan Ladies Soccer team (opposite). The groups worked really hard with alongside people from Mosaic Church, Darlington and helped to plant trees, lay flooring and paint. We are looking forward to welcoming another group of over twenty volunteers from Darlington's EE call centre to help us to get on top of other aspects of our landscaping. The "Galvanise Team" from the charity Groundworks North East will spend three days working in our field with a digger to get us ready for several hundred British native trees and hedging which will be planted in the autumn, donated by the Woodland Trust. We have a retired kitchen fitter on site working hard and there are always jobs both large and small so all help is appreciated. Donations of furniture, toys, baby equipment and other items just keep coming and the cabins are starting to look lovely.



We have completed the **Induction Training for our first Volunteer Family Mentors** and their DBS checks/safe recruitment is underway. The mentors will befriend families and offer informal support.

We are working with a business consultant to help us to improve our grant funding bids and look at fresh ideas for future sustainability. Several applications are in progress and so we value your prayers for success.

When we initially applied for planning permission there were 58 objections! **We are very keen to engage with local residents** to allay their concerns and gain support. We had an open meeting in May which was attended by the Chair and another member of the Parish Council who were very positive. Subsequently, we have been invited to have a stand at the Hurworth Country Fair in September which is great progress and another answer to prayer.

One significant challenge is that **we still have a shortfall of over £70,000** to finish extending our stable block to provide an office, meeting room and manager's accommodation. In the short term we plan to fence off the footings to the extension so that the site is made safe for families, but we are praying that somehow God will provide the monies we need so that the work can be completed. In the meantime we are using the front of one of the cabins as a temporary office.

As part of Small Charities Week "Local Giving" are going to double all donations of £25 made online on **22nd of June from 10.00 am until midnight**. If you would like to give this is an excellent way to help our project. Simply visit <https://localgiving.org/pact-north-east> on the day and follow the prompts.

We will be organising an open day in July before our first families arrive and so we would love to show you around Eagle House then. More information will follow but you can also visit our website at www.pactne.co.uk.

Thank you for your interest, support and prayers.

Trevor and Pam Birtle





Dear all thanks for praying for us as we come to the end of our time in England (and Paris)

Prayer

Anna has recently had a surgical operation due to an ectopic pregnancy. She is still in pain but recovering well.

We fly back to Peru tomorrow, please pray for our final few hours here and also to prepare well for Peru physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We are aware of several pastoral issues with the students in the school of ministry. To focus on the right things and invest in those things in the remainder of 2017, both personally, emotionally and ministerially. (especially in Mark's case)

Praise

Mark took the boys to Paris and it went well, even though Anna wasn't able to make it due to her operation.

We have had a really great and refreshing time in the UK and met family friends and supporters and their churches.

For all the amazing places we have been to and seen (and instagrammed)!

For new hope and focus for 2017 and beyond.

Thanks as always

Love Mark, Anna, Daniel, Joel and Kaleb.

