

Managers Report 2007

Another successful year for St Vincents. The centre has gone from strength to strength we continue to have forty members a week and fifteen to Sixteen members per day. We have several new members, and we still have a growing waiting list of people wishing to attend the centre.

The craft room is one of the busiest places in the centre. All of the members who work in here have a really enjoyable day. All members are very proud of the high quality work that they produce, real care and commitment is given to each item of artwork. The hard work and dedication that Sue, our craft instructor, gives to each and every member is very apparent to all who view our members work. To some of our members their artwork is the first creative achievement in their lives. Painting isn't the only activity that takes place in the craft room; members bake, upholster, make clay models and often treats and a sing along goes on.

I am very please to report that the multi sensory room is constantly being upgraded and full use is being made of it. With help of physiotherapists and o/t's we have updated all our member's exercise programmes for stretches and muscle relaxing, this helping to keep our members as mobile as possible. This room is also used for relaxation and one-to-one communication with our more disabled members.

Our computer room is now fully adapted with specialized equipment, we want our members to feel a real sense of achievement in here. The centre helped fund a computer for one of our members to use at home, this has helped him to be able to write letters for himself without special equipment. We are all very proud of his achievement and the others who have worked on projects in this room, we are very grateful to Maggie, Keith and The Cheltenham Ladies College girls our volunteers who come in every week to make this possible, thank you.

Our members sit on our interview panel for new members of care staff, their contribution to this process is of great value.

We also hire the room out during our evening activities on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – 2.00-7.00 pm, offering all of our facilities to the public and to all other care homes in the community, who do not have the facilities on site. This service is proving very popular with over 36 homes in total attending on a weekly basis.

Our WAWAG group for youngsters with cerebral palsy which is held at the centre once a month, this is proving a real success. This is run by our evening's activities team Sue Dawkins, Christine Williams and Emma Newman. This year in May WAWAG is going on a holiday to Butlins, a special thanks to The Four Ache Trust.

We currently take two of our members to the riding for the disabled which they thoroughly enjoy.

The music therapy that we provide is expanding all the time, Elizabeth our music teacher comes in twice a week and does one to one work and a group session, this has

proven very successful and the members that take part in this respond well and their communication and co ordination skills have greatly improved.

The hot tub is our best asset to date; all of our members love it. The benefits of the hot tub is appreciated by all of our members, it can be a relaxing experience or fun to splash around, whilst giving real therapeutic benefits.

Our ball pool goes down a treat, the members love using it – its great fun and gives real therapeutic benefits with stretching and movement. Thank you to Cheltenham Round Table.

We also have Lisa who comes in once a week to do Aromatherapy massage sessions to work on a 1- 1 with members. We hope to expand this is offer this facility to our evening groups soon.

We are continuing to attend concerts at the town hall throughout the year. These are always thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. The picnic that we provide in the interval always goes down a treat. With our new ambulance we are able to take even more members.

Our new mini bus is providing a real asset to the centre; this enables us to continue to pick up more members daily. It also lets us take our members on day trips to the zoo and the seaside. Many thanks to the National Lottery.

We were awarded the Judges Special Award in 2006 by Cheltenham in Bloom they helped us with a supply of plants and worked alongside the members to encourage them to learn and be apart of the outside display area and be proud of there own work.

As a new project In September 2006 we took seven of our members to Disney Paris for a short break holiday. The holiday was with a specialized disability travel company. This offered some of our members an experience of a lifetime, also giving much needed respite to some families. Fundraising was organised within the centre to raise all the costs. Members and families had a great night dancing till late. We had some great support with fundraising for the holiday from the Barnwood Trust, Mend, and Severn sound, The Charles Irvin Trust, Mrs Cadbury, Zurich and the kind families of the holiday goers. These special efforts by individuals spur us on to work even harder.

Many thanks to Cirencester scope who presented us with a cheque for £500 towards the Disney member's holiday for 2006.

We took 8 members to Butlins Mine head in March 2007 for a short break great fun was had by all and as it was x factor weekend every one was dancing and singing.

Our 2007 holiday is to Alcludia in Spain with 5 members and 5 staff.

The Christmas lunch was a great success, the day was great fun, thirty eight of our members attended along with all of our volunteers. St Vincents own members from the music group gave us a concert of their pieces- they were fantastic! The lunch as always was excellent, Father Christmas visited with presents for each of the members.

We also continue to support a young lady with cerebral palsy every morning doing a regular exercise regime given by a physiotherapist; this programme is keeping her mobile after an operation and will enable her to continue in her career.

The staffing team continue to give an exceptional standard of care to all our members, who all enjoy the personal and quality attention that is given to them.

Training in Moving and Handling, Health and Safety, Food Hygiene and first aid has all taken place recently; almost all of our care staff are now completing an NVQ in care. Myself I have just completed my NVQ Assessors Award. As you can see we are keeping up to date with recent legislation.

Other health professionals continue to visit the centre on a regular basis to give us support and advice.

I would at this point like to make a special mention of our cook Betty. Everybody loves her and her cooking (especially me who loves the puddings. She calls it cupboard love!). Betty cares for each and every one of the members which is shown day to day through her nutritional tasty meals and her extra efforts for birthdays, Christmas and many special events. Betty has been honoured with the Spa award for presentation and cleanliness of the kitchen. On behalf of all the members and staff from the bottom of our hearts Betty - thank you, you're one in a million.

We have been sending out our regular newsletter for friends and supporters thanks to our administrator Sue.

Tony Locker one of our retired driver/escorts has been working to bring our web site up to speed. www.stvincents.org.uk

None of this, or the overall achievement of what we do, would be possible without the many volunteers who come in and assist our team which is led by our deputy and centre nurse Dev. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all very much for their commitment and family tree that they bring to the centre. One of our volunteers Rildie Light was awarded by Cheltenham Volunteer Service for over 10 year's service in the community as a volunteer. We have nominated another of our long standing volunteers this year Jean White.

St Vincents Centre is often asked to have young students for work experience. They come from several schools around the local area. This is very encouraging. The members enjoy these visits and it will hopefully lead to more young people working in the care sector.

We have also been taking Police students on there twelve week training for a 3 day work placement in what will be there local community to help them with better understanding and knowledge of dealing with different disabilities.

We have been visited by lots of other day centres, care homes and the National Star College; we now employ a young lady who came to do some volunteer work after entering the work scheme through the college who is an asset to the centre, thank you for all your dedication Sam.

Visitors love to buy from our sales table, which Dev, our centre deputy manager runs all year round this is used for the member's treats.

Fundraising continues to play a big part in the centres activities. Our annual Christmas fayre and mince pie morning raised over £1,300 and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The members also made all there own Christmas cards to sell.

The festive fun night was a night of sing along to Christmas carols and fun treats with warm hot chocolate and candy cains, mulled wine and chestnuts. This was our first time with this and it went down well, even in our full thermals. We will be holding it again next year.

We attended the annual swimarathon swimming 105 lengths which took place at Cheltenham College. Many thanks to all our swimmers and a special thanks to all who sponsored us, you all did us proud! A special thank you to Mike Haze from the Labour Club for his support.

We will again be opening the centre to the public for our annual open morning. This gives our members the opportunities to show off their work and all they do to the general public. It is great to see the look of amazement on faces of the visitors when they see the high quality of work that is produced at the centre.

Again this year we will be holding our annual fete on June 9 th June. Our thanks to Dr. and Mrs Ormerod who will be kindly lending us their garden for the day. There will be a stall where the members will be proudly selling their goodies. As a team we will be making it a great success.

Dunalley School's long standing support continues, thank you to them all for all the support throughout the year.

The Labour Club of Cheltenham continues to support us every year. There generosity never fails to amaze us. Thank you to all at the labour club

Many thanks to Zurich finances for there ongoing support.

Michael Smart and the local church have been a constant support and have helped with fundraising on a regular basis.

Our thanks to Lancaster Partners for their ongoing support with our printing needs.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Crossland for their support and donations through the year, you are both so very kind.

To all the Para ladies and Gwenda Shorney for their ongoing donations and all the help that they give to the centre on our events including Gwenda's strawberry tea. Thank you for all your hard work.

Cathy Readstone who donated the money she got from making all of her Christmas cakes, thank you.

Mrs Miller and The Cabbage group kindly donated to the centre after completing the Cheltenham walk.

Barn wood Trust one of our long standing supporters we thank you for everything.

A special thank you to Mend for all there support and grants you have been fantastic (especially Ann).

Many thanks to Ann Cadbury our patron for her continued support to the centre. Apart from her personnel support we also benefit from her wide range of contacts and activities across the county.

Our thanks to Les and Beryl Bonney for there continued support and commitment to what they do for us as a centre, thank you doesn't seem enough.

To all our valued trustees thank you for all your input and support and a special thank you to Celia who has been my management support.

I apologise now to anyone I may have forgotten who has raised money or helped us throughout the year and thank them for all their help and support.

As you can see from my report we have had yet again a very busy year. None of this would have been possible without the support of all of our sponsors for the new projects.

To the continuing help and support of our faithful volunteers, friends and parents on behalf of all the members I would like to thank them all very much indeed.

Last but far from least I would like to thank each and every member of staff for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. We are a great team thank you all.

Without any of these people mentioned above there would be no St Vincents.

Thank you!!!!

Becky Evans
Centre Manager