

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM JACKIE REDDING, OUR CEO

Although the weather was a little disappointing this summer, we have had a very busy time in our Youth Zone. Our Summer Holiday Club entertained 892 young people across 4 weeks with a huge variety of activities including team games, climbing, arts and crafts, music and cooking. We were also lucky to have visits from the Royal Navy, British Cycling and Circus Mash, who added some extra special activities to the club.

Our Youth Zone is going from strength to strength, with increasing numbers of volunteers offering their time to support our charity. We have also had more staff join our youth team which means we can offer an even wider choice of activities, including more dance, boxing and cooking!

We have some exciting events planned in the run up to Christmas, including a Festive Families Fayre with stalls, entertainment, refreshments and Santa's grotto. We would love to see all of our members and their families come together at this event to have fun and help us to raise funds for our charity!

HOW ARE WE DOING? JUN - AUG 2023

8609

YOUNG PEOPLE VISITS
TO THE WAY

16,900

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE
BEEN A PART OF OUR
YOUTH ZONE SINCE IT
OPENED ITS DOORS

430

NEW MEMBERS

WE HAVE RUN

103

SESSIONS

Katie's Cooking Club

There are some amazing smells coming from our teaching kitchen recently. Katie's Cooking Club runs every Tuesday evening on Juniors session. So far, we have had stir fry, chicken curry, burritos and fruit kebabs. Delicious!

Members have been learning about food safety, how to keep safe in the kitchen and they've proudly taken their creations home with them to share with their families.



INTRODUCING PC PETE!



Some of you may have noticed the police occasionally visiting our Youth Zone during session. Nothing to worry about, it is the local neighbourhood policing team who regularly likes to pop in to meet our young people and staff, answer any questions about what they do and to have the occasional game of football or pool.

PC Pete McKinnon is our main contact. He has been a police officer for nearly 20 years and loves the challenges and variety of the job. He wants to show our young people that the police are approachable and they are here to help.

He understands that sometimes it can feel a bit intimidating when a police officer comes to talk to you, but they are here to keep people safe. He explained, "Neighbourhood policing is all about building up relationships within the community and the Youth Zone plays a big part in that."

PC Pete would also love to chat to any of our young people who are interested in a career in the police force.

So please say hello to him next time he is in the Youth Zone.

SUPER SATURDAYS

Have you tried our Families Session?

Saturdays are so much fun in our Youth Zone. It is a chance for us to get to know the families and younger siblings of our members.



Every Saturday has two sessions, 10-12:30 is our SEND Families Session which is a calm, quiet session with activities structured around our members with additional needs and our Universal Families Session is 1pm to 4pm with all sorts of fun activities for all ages based around a weekly theme.

So far we have had a Harry Potter theme, Disney, National Teddy Bear Day, Outer Space and Sports Day. We have some exciting themes coming up including, Safari Saturday, Wildlife, Music mania, Recycled Fun and Pyjama Day, so keep an eye on our social media for the weekly posts about the themes and come along and join in.



COLLINS AEROSPACE GOLF DAY

Keen golfers from Collins Aerospace and other Midlands businesses raised an incredible £5,000 for our Youth Zone at a charity golf tournament at Oxley Park Golf Club.



The tournament was held on Friday 8th September, and it saw 88 golfers take to the greens in support of The Way. In addition to raising funds, the tournament also helped to raise awareness of the important work that The Way Youth Zone does.



A group of staff and young people from the Youth Zone were invited to attend the event, and they were given the opportunity to learn how to play foot golf, a game that is played on a golf course but uses feet instead of golf clubs and a football instead of a golf ball!



The tournament was a huge success, and it is thanks to the generosity of the golfers and the support of the sponsors that The Way Youth Zone will be able to continue providing its vital services to young people in Wolverhampton.



VOLUNTEERING

We have a strong team of volunteers who now help us every week, delivering sessions, offering new activities and supporting our back-office functions. As a charity, we are always looking for more volunteers to join our team. It's a great chance to gain work experience, build confidence, meet new people and give back to your community.

If you are interested in sparing a few hours each week to support us, we will be having our next Volunteering Open Day on Friday 20th October. Come along any time between 10am and 3pm to have a tour of our building and a chat with one of our team.

We are particularly interested in volunteers for the following roles:

- Mentoring
- Music skills
- Minibus driver
- Kitchen assistant
- Reception/Admin
- Handy person
- Hair and beauty skills

WE ARE A BRITISH CYCLING HUB



One of the exciting additions to the Youth Zone over the summer has been the cycling. In June we arranged with British Cycling to become one of their Cycle Hubs. This means they come into The Way every Thursday with their bikes and helmets and our young people have the opportunity to improve their cycling skills.

It was great seeing the young people cycling around the MUGA in the sunshine. We have been advised recently not to use the MUGA for the cycling, as it can damage the surface, therefore we will be moving the cycle lessons indoors into the sports hall from this month.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS!

We have had some new faces in our Youth Zone recently and hope to have a few more soon. Our team of volunteers is gradually growing!



Melinda



Paul

A SUMMER OF FUN

Our Summer Holiday Club was a huge success, with around 60 young people joining us every day across four weeks of August. Activities included team games, arts and crafts, cooking, quizzes, cycling, climbing and special visits from Circus Mash to teach circus skills and the Royal Navy held an exciting STEM rocket launching challenge.

A huge thank you to #HAF programme for our funding to offer free places. Also thank you to the Rotary Club of Tettenhall who funded some additional places to support families who do not qualify for HAF.

We are waiting for confirmation of funding for the October Half Term Holiday Club, so keep an eye on social media and the screen lobby within the Youth Zone for further information. If you are interested in reserving a place in advance, you can email Thomas.aberley@thewayyouthzone.org with your child's name and, as long as they do not have any no-shows against their name from previous holiday clubs, they can reserve a place.



NEW PREPAYMENT SYSTEM

Coming to The Way has just got even easier!

We all know young people can lose things and coins are one of them! Plus, sometimes you find yourself scrabbling around last minute to find some change for your young person to spend in our cafe. Well, we have made things easier and you can now pay for your young person's entry and meal in advance.

HOW TO PREPAY

1. Simply click on the link below and enter your young person's details to log in.
2. Add the "session" or "session and hot meal" options for the dates that you want to your basket and checkout. Easy!
3. When your young person arrives at our Youth Zone, they just need to give their name at reception and come in.
4. If they have a prepaid meal, we will hand them a prepaid meal voucher to use at the cafe. (Please note, this does not cover tuck shop items, cakes/cookies or drinks.)



So far, we have raised £260 so far through the Wolverhampton Community Lottery. For as little as £1 a week, you can enter the draw for £25,000.

There is also an additional chance to win a £1,500 Ikea voucher if you enter before 30th September.

With 60% of the ticket price donated to our charity, it's a win-win!!!

JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

We have a number of vacancies in our Youth Zone at the moment. If you are interested in working with young people and you are looking for a new challenge, have a look at our website for more details.



FESTIVE FAMILIES FAYRE

Exciting news!! The Way Youth Zone will be holding a Festive Family Fayre this December which will be open to the whole community.

There will be Youth Zone performances, games and competitions, festive market stalls full of gifts and food, Santa's grotto and lots more.

If any of our members' parents/carers have a small business and would be interested in reserving a stall at the fayre, just ask at our front desk or email info@thewayyouthzone.org



VALUES AWARDS

It has been three months since we introduced the Values Awards within our Youth Zone. In that time, we have had 78 nominations for young people, staff and volunteers.

We have had some brilliant examples of the positive behaviours within our Youth Zone and it has been a tricky decision each month to choose the winners.

If you haven't seen our winners so far, have a look at our Instagram or Facebook pages where we post the winners every month.



DID YOU KNOW ...

Parents/carers can nominate staff, volunteers and young people for a Values Award too? Just go to www.thewayyouthzone.org/our-values/

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES



We have set our opening times for the Christmas period

Saturday 23rd December – Open as usual

Sunday 24th December – CLOSED

Monday 25th December – CLOSED

Tuesday 26th December – CLOSED

Wednesday 27th December – Open as usual

Thursday 28th December – Open as usual

Friday 29th December – Open as usual

Saturday 30th December – Open as usual

Sunday 31st December – CLOSED

Monday 1st January – CLOSED

Tuesday 2nd January – Open as usual

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR YOUTH ZONE



@thewayyouthzone



www.thewayyouthzone.org



@theway_youthzone

CONTACT US



01902 328290



info@thewayyouthzone.org