

MARTHA NEWS

AUTUMN '12 NEWSLETTER



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Michael

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Fundraising update



George White, CEO

In some ways, much has changed at Martha Trust over the past 25 years.

But what hasn't changed is our deep commitment to providing the best care possible and our vision that all people with profound disabilities should be able to lead happy, active and fulfilling lives.

While the standard of care at Martha Trust is exceptional, it can always be improved which is why we have put in place a range of measures to enhance safeguarding, build stronger communications and increase opportunities for staff development.

The toughest challenge of all, of course, is to achieve all of these things on an even tighter budget and to reach out to even more people who need us. To this end we have been focusing on negotiating even better deals with our suppliers and our funders, and strengthening our investment in fundraising.

While Martha Trust will continue to adapt to its changing environment, we will never stray from our mission: to ensure the lives of the people we care for are the best they can possibly be.

Cover photo
Best friends: Michael and his sister Jenny

Garden parties

Like the Royal Family we've had a lot to celebrate this year...

To mark our Silver Anniversary we held garden parties at both Deal and Hastings, inviting along friends and family, supporters of Martha Trust and local dignitaries.



We had a fantastic turnout, great weather on both days, a marvellous spread of food and two beautiful hand-made birthday cakes decorated in the Martha Trust colours. There were party games, live music and a chance to look at some original Martha photos and watch our new DVD.

It was also a great opportunity to meet people who aren't so familiar with us. Councillor Jeremy Watts, Mayor of Sandwich who joined us at Deal said that local people should be "proud to have Martha Trust in their midst".

And Councillor Alan Roberts, Mayor of Hastings, added "You only have to look at the happiness on the faces of the people you care for to see the good work you do."



Thank you to everyone who came along, joined in and helped us celebrate 25 years of Martha Trust.

The race is on

Martha Trust has been guaranteed places for the 2013 Virgin London Marathon so we're looking for people who are prepared for the challenge and the commitment.

We're asking for a £100 registration fee and we'd like our runners to pledge to raise at least £1,500 towards our work. We have a limited number of places so we'll be making our selection once application forms are in. We'll let you know the outcome as soon as we can.

To find out more call us on **01304 610448** email fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk or visit www.marthatrust.org.uk/virginlondonmarathon

£25k for 25 years!

To mark our 25th Anniversary we've launched a campaign to raise funds and spread the word about Martha Trust.

Please support us by making a £1 donation via your mobile by texting **MTHA25 £1 to 70070** – and pass it on.



Meet Michael

It's easy to assume that if you have difficulty communicating you'd find it hard to make your feelings known – but that's certainly not the case for Michael.

Michael is an extremely happy 27 year old with a wicked sense of humour and a real love of life and the people around him. At mealtimes he's adept at letting the staff at Mary House know whose help he'd like – and when they aren't paying attention he thinks it's great fun to 'spill' his drink all over them.

Michael has been at Mary House for six years and it suits him perfectly. He's at his happiest taking rain-soaked walks along the seafront and shouting into the wind. Throw in a helium balloon and he's in heaven!

In his previous placement, however, Michael never really settled. As it became clear he'd have to move, his parents discovered that Martha Trust had opened Mary House in Hastings, a little over an hour from their home in Croydon. According to his mum, Pat: "We phoned immediately and despite it being a Sunday we were



Michael enjoying a trip to Selsey

able to arrange a visit. Everyone, from the support workers to the cleaners were so friendly and caring that we knew straight away this was the place for Michael."

After a visit from a dedicated support worker, Michael came to stay overnight, and then for a weekend, before moving in fully.

The transition was incredibly smooth and the family hasn't looked back: "Life at Mary House is great for Michael and the staff have got to know and understand him really well.

"They know he loves water whether it's a walk in the rain or a session in the hydrotherapy pool. They know he enjoys music but doesn't like loud noise or confusion and that he needs a little quiet time occasionally. They know how important his friends are, even going to the trouble of taking two of his friends home with him for a birthday tea.

"And above all, they know they have to pay attention – especially at mealtimes!"

Giving something back

Karen Murray lives locally to Martha and always thought we did an excellent job giving our residents the care and quality of life they deserve. So when she was asked to complete 28 hours of voluntary service in the local community as part of her BSc (HONS) Degree in Diagnostic Radiography she jumped at the chance to work with us.

"My experience in finance has been really useful and I've been able to help with their fundraising database, undertaken some research and assisted at two fundraising events.

"I would love to see even more people volunteering with Martha Trust – you get so much out of the experience"

"It was great to be part of a team that is constantly trying to raise awareness of the vital work that Martha does. I would love to see even more people volunteering with Martha Trust – you get so much out of the experience and you're providing invaluable help to the people who live and work there."



If you're interested in volunteering for Martha then we'd be delighted to hear from you. Just call Kate or Lauren in our HR Team on **01304 626928** or visit www.marthatrust.org.uk/volunteering

The taste of success



Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported our **2012 Wine Tasting**. We had the most fantastic evening and raised **£3,000!**

The event was generously supported by Hercules Wine Warehouse, Barclays and Millards Insurance Services with a special thank you to The Salutation Gardens.

Photographs of the event are still available from www.photoboxgallery.com/doverdesign

Smelling of roses

We owe a huge thank you to the teams from Pzifers and Barclays in Ashford who have been busily transforming areas of our garden in Deal into beautiful and productive spaces to be enjoyed by residents and their families.



A great big thank you to...

The Coach & Horses in Deal where landlords **Penny and Mike Barnes and their customers** have raised thousands of pounds for us through quiz nights and collections.

George Sutcliffe whose coffee mornings are always a great success and recently raised £380 for us in a single morning!



And to **Lynn & John Hadley** who have just completed their **THIRD** Martha Trust car challenge. Not only have they raised over £4,500 on our behalf over the years but they are fantastic ambassadors for Martha so thank you both.

Bonkers in Barcelona



Once again we had the most fantastic time on the Martha Trust car challenge 2012. We'll be updating you on all the news from Bonkers in Barcelona and letting you know our final fundraising total as soon as we can.

Christmas wishes

We have a brand new selection of Christmas cards available for 2012. Each pack contains 20 cards with four different designs including While Shepherds Watched, Once in Royal David's City, Little Town of Bethlehem and We Three Kings.

The price is £3.25 per pack and every pack purchased will help to support our work. You can order through the website, by using the enclosed order form, or calling us direct on **01304 610448**.



Contact Martha Trust

Julie Gayler Director of Marketing
01304 626921 – juliegayler@marthatrust.org.uk

Carol Baalham Fundraising Assistant
01304 610448 – carolbaalham@marthatrust.org.uk

Dee Murphy Fundraising & Events Officer
01304 610448 – deemurphy@marthatrust.org.uk

If you'd like to receive future issues of Martha News by email and help us to save money, please email us at fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk



Martha Trust, Homestead Lane, Hacklinge, Deal, Kent CT14 0PG

T 01304 610448 F 01304 615462 E fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk W www.marthatrust.org.uk

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