

Hand on Heart March 2015 Newsletter

March has been a very busy month for us here at Hand on Heart. We have welcomed two new members of staff to the team, Victoria Burrows is our new Chief Executive, and Jo Keegan is our new Operations Manager. We have also moved premises to our very own office.

Introducing our new Chief Executive Victoria Burrows:

A month in....

Hand on Heart is in exciting times and a month into my role I think it's time I introduced myself and reflect a little. Having celebrated our third birthday in January the charity has seen some significant changes. We have grown to a team of 5, and relocated to our own premises within the same week.

This is the start of a new phase for Hand on Heart. I have been so impressed with how much the team have achieved for such a small, young charity. Their knowledge and passion is unquestionable and this was clearly visible to me last week when we received a call to say a defibrillator we had supplied only two days prior had been used with a successful outcome. In the words of our Chair "This is exactly why we do what we do. It's amazing" and I couldn't agree more. Myself and Jo our new Operations Manager went to visit the staff where the defibrillator was used and it was wonderful to hear first-hand how grateful they were to have been able to save a life because of their efforts, and what we do.



FUTURE:

So what's in store for us? We have launched our 4th UK Heart Safe Awards and are busy working on making these the biggest and most successful yet. Sponsorship packages are still available and you can see this year's categories and nominate at: www.ukheartsafeawards.co.uk

OUR 500TH DEFIBRILLATOR!!

March saw us celebrate providing our 500th school with their defibrillator and making another school Heart Safe.

The School was Flixton Junior School in Trafford.

This is a wonderful achievement for Hand on Heart and it was great to spend the afternoon with the staff and pupils with SOL to present the school with their defibrillator.

A big thank you to everybody at the school.



Schools made heart safe

0 0 5 0 2

Teachers educated

0 3 7 6 8

Pupils trained

1 4 1 9 0

February Winners:

Congratulations to our lucky winners from the February draw to win a fully funded defibrillator and training package.

The winners were : Waverton Community Primary School and Our Lady Immaculate Primary School, Wigan.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

St Patricks Day was a brilliant success for Patrick House at de Stafford School. Everyone came together to raise money through cake sales competitions like:

- Guess the number of sweets in the jar
- Clover Hunts
- Find the leprechaun's treasure

To name but a few!!

Enthusiasm and spirits were high which all added to make this St Patrick's Day one of the best ones yet.

Thank you to everyone who got involved as they managed to raise an incredible **£179.00** for our Hand on Heart charity.



St Teresa's Primary School students learn new skills



Students from the local school in Irlam, on Friday 13th February showed their support to Hand on Heart by wearing red and learning basic life skills, as part of the school programme.

Throughout the day 127 students in Key Stage 2 were taught the primary skills taught in Basic Life Skills (BLS) course including basic mouth to mouth resuscitation to CPR (chest compressions to circulate blood). **Our sincere thanks to everyone who took part, as they also raised £211.73 for the charity.**



Staff from both the Midland Hotel Manchester and Hand on Heart were on hand today to help launch the 2015 UK Heart Safe Awards in style with our very own Hand on Heart mascot 'SOL.'



Last year we saw over 100 nominations with 15 worthy winners being awarded their top prize.

Over £14,000 was raised through various fundraising activities on the night, which has already been used to fund more defibrillator out in the local communities across the UK.

Our dedicated nominations website for this years entries is already up and running and waiting to hear from you.

Quote from our Chief Executive:

"This will be my first awards evening and I would encourage everyone to consider nominating and joining us on the evening to celebrate the UK's leading Heart Safe individuals and organisations."

If you wish to enter, simply log onto :-

www.ukheartsafeawards.co.uk

Newsquest Media Group supports our Wigan & Leigh campaign



Congratulations to the 5 lucky schools within the Wigan and Leigh area who after entering into the local media competition courtesy of the Leigh Journal, received their fully funded defibrillator and training package at Leigh Sports village from the funding we received from Newsquest (Gannett) Foundation.

This funding provided by Newsquest (Gannett) Foundation also included AED training for up to 8 staff from each school and 30 children who will be trained on basic life skills in the forthcoming months.

Representatives from 4 of the schools attended a special defibrillator giving opportunity at Leigh Sports Village.

Pupils from Tyldesley Primary, Twelve Apostles RC Primary, St Johns Infant and St Josephs Catholic Primary schools attended the stadium. Following their presentation Chief Executive Victoria Burrows visited Westleigh Primary School as they were unable to attend the stadium.



Fantastic Feedback

It's always great when we receive feedback from our training sessions and is testament to our fabulous trainers and the wonderful work that they do.

Tonge Moor Primary School

"Our ladies (and 1 gentleman) have just finished their training and are raving about how informative and interesting it was. I don't hear that often about training courses. Big thanks from us all."

Bishops Down Primary

"Relaxed atmosphere, great delivery, will be greatly valuable. Thanks."

Ellenbrook Primary

"Excellent trainer. Very informative. Made you feel comfortable & confident. Really good course and very informative and 100% more confident. Thanks".

Greswold Primary School.

"Great course which has made me confident to use a defibrillator and removed myths or misconceptions. Clear, straightforward, understandable delivery, questions answered effectively. Thank you."

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 **Hand on Heart**
Funding defibrillators for schools
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