

## Welcome to the EnhanceAble Newsletter Winter 2011

### Sensational Signational

A really exciting and energy-filled week gave us great fun at the Geneva Road Centre recently. Kingston's fantastic Speech and Language Learning Disability Team worked with us to facilitate four days of signing, singing, storytelling and fun. The team, using 'Cats' as a theme, ran a holistic workshop every day. It focused upon developing staff and service user's signing skills, making communication fun and motivating us all to be top-class communicators.



Everyone who took part had a marvellous time. Veronica, one member of staff said, *"I learned so much. I didn't know anything about Makaton or signing before this week and now I really feel confident that I could learn more. I love the way that EnhanceAble prioritises providing first class activities for the service users"*.



Makaton is a signed language programme for people with disabilities. EnhanceAble has been investing in staff's Makaton skills for the last six years. We were so impressed by the work done by the Speech and Language Team that it inspired us to send Julie, our CEO, off to qualify as a Makaton Tutor. She finished her training in January and will now be regularly working with staff and service users across the charity to incorporate signing and symbols in our work.

Join Julie on Friday lunchtimes for 'Makaton Moments', or let her know if you would like to attend Makaton training.

### **Jolly January Jumble Sale**

The January blues were certainly not in evidence at our latest EnhanceAble Jumble Sale where a grand total of £2,981 was raised. Our loyal supporters braved the rainy weather to attend and this time we welcomed lots of new visitors, thanks to publicity from local radio station Radio Jackie.

Preparation and organisation for a sale means a lot of hard work for Hilly and her team of volunteers.



Jenna Yallop, our Student Social Worker on placement at EnhanceAble, gave up her Friday evening to help prepare for the Saturday sale.

If you would like to volunteer to work at our jumble sales or in our charity shop please contact Adele Cowell on: 07813 689541 or Hilly Cates on: 07743 239953.

**Coming soon:**  
EnhanceAble is opening a new charity shop! Watch this space.

## Focus on.... Kite

Kite is EnhanceAble's service for young people aged 11-19 who have Asperger's Syndrome or High Functioning Autism.

Running for just over a year this group supports twenty individuals. We run two youth clubs which support young people to develop their social communication skills and access activities that historically have been difficult for them.

Kite aims to develop our service user's skills and confidence enabling them to access mainstream activities in the future. Two members of the group have recently been able to join a local drama group as a result of support provided by Kite.



Favourite activities include trips to places like Brighton and Camden; outings to play sport like football, golf and skating and Geneva Road Centre-based nights playing Wii, cooking and painting.

Building strong relationships with our service users and their families is very important to us. Our skilled and well- trained group leader Natalie and her team work very hard to ensure everyone's needs are met.

If you would like to know more about Kite, phone Natalie Hudson on 07984 572480 or Caroline Baxter on 020 8547 6201.



## 5 minutes with.... Mahmood

Mahmood is a service user at EnhanceAble's Geneva Road Centre.

**Q: How long have you been using EnhanceAble's services?**

A: I have been coming to the Geneva Road Centre since 1995. I did come before, but then I left for a couple of years.

**Q: What is the best thing about EnhanceAble?**

A: Making friends, talking to people, going to see Julie the CEO in her little cubby-hole!

**Q: How do you spend your time at the Geneva Road Centre?**

A: I answer the phones and greet people at Reception on Mondays and Fridays. I do bowling sometimes. I have started doing Lunch Club with Barbara, one of our Support Workers, and I've bought my own brush to wash the saucepans. Last week I cooked fish pie – it was OK. I sat and ate with everyone who had joined in the cooking.

**Q: What is your favourite or most vivid memory about EnhanceAble?**

A: When the building inside was all painted in bright colours instead of white I really liked it because it made it look nice.

**Q: What is the most important thing you have learned at the Geneva Road Centre?**

A: I have got good at talking to people about problems. I am good at knowing when to ask for help and I know who to talk to.

**Q: Tell us a secret about you!!**

A: I wish the lunches were free!