

TEAM-BUILDING AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

Our latest newsletter features a number of recent visits to Challenge 4 Change, including one by more than 180 pupils at Bury Church of England High School, the biggest-ever group we have hosted in a single trip.

The difference our team-building activity sessions can make to people's lives is demonstrated by the responses from the various groups, ranging from the worlds of business, education and sport to a charity which plays a vital role in assisting the homeless.

However, Challenge 4 Change offers much more besides. We recently hosted a Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce networking event and next month our centre will be the venue for an industry day organised by specialist training company Vertex.

With our facility becoming more widely known, we are offering the chance for businesses to promote their products and services on signs outside our building.

More than 20,000 vehicles pass us each weekday and there will soon be a Metrolink stop nearby, so it's an opportunity not to be missed!



BIGGEST-EVER GROUP FOR CHALLENGE 4 CHANGE

A group of year seven pupils at Bury Church of England High School made a record-breaking trip to Challenge 4 Change.

More than 180 youngsters were in the party - the largest number to visit our facility as a single group in our history.

Accompanied by school staff, they came as part of an enhanced transition programme to help them acclimatise to the high school environment and get to know each other better.

As well as organising a variety of activities, we also provided a packed lunch for the visitors.

Teacher Phil Guest said they had a wonderful day.

He said: "The children and staff were very complimentary about the staff and the facilities - they really did have a super day. The lunches were also great!"

One pupil said he enjoyed the fact that the trip helped him forge many new friendships because the youngsters had to work as a team.

Another said: "It was a great experience, a fun day where we all just got to forget about school."

CORNERSTONE VISITORS DIG DEEP

A group from homeless charity Cornerstone, including members of its successful football team, showed their mettle when they tackled the activities at Challenge 4 Change.

The charity provides a safe, warm shelter for homeless people where they can get help, support and meals, and make new friends.

Cornerstone, whose day centre in Hulme, Manchester, provides 44,000 meals a year for society's most vulnerable people, brought a group of different nationalities, age groups and backgrounds for a two-hour session run by Dean Lynch and Sean Weston.

Charlotte Neagle, who volunteers at Cornerstone, said: "We were expecting fun but we gained much more than that!"

"We needed to dig deep and motivate each other, to make sure we didn't just succeed as individuals, but as a team."

The group undertook ground-level activities then moved on to the aerial trek before tackling the renowned Leap of Faith.

Charlotte said: "Many of the group were scared of heights and were reluctant to even contemplate it, but everyone pulled together as a team to motivate and invigorate one another to complete the challenge.

"Working together, communication and resilience are paramount to footballing success and, following our visit to Challenge 4 Change, the players have a better understanding of each other and the patience and will to make themselves want to bond closer."

Cornerstone has been helping homeless people since 1991 and the work it does seems more poignant than ever, with the issue under the spotlight following the recent launch of Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham's Homelessness Fund.

VERTEX SHOWS DELEGATES THE ROPES

Specialist training company Vertex will be holding its latest Industry Day at Challenge 4 Change next month.

Vertex is a leading provider of safety training to leisure operators including traditional ropes courses, adventure parks and activity sites.

It has chosen our indoor activity centre as the venue for its third Industry Day, which will take place from 9.30am-4.30pm on Wednesday, November 15.

Topics covered by various speakers will include personal protective equipment (PPE), insurance claims and health and safety.

Representatives from PPE manufacturers and adventure equipment resellers will also be attending.

The event costs £45 per person plus VAT, which includes the cost of lunch and refreshments.

More than 80 per cent of the available places have already been sold but there is still time to book your ticket. To do so, visit www.vertex-training.co.uk

CITY YOUNGSTERS UP THEIR GAME

Football stars of the future enjoyed a day's activities at Challenge 4 Change under the supervision of our trainer Dennis Ramsdale.

A total of 43 youngsters from Manchester City's under-15s squad visited our facility along with eight members of staff.

The group undertook a variety of ground-level and high ropes activities with a focus on building their resilience under pressure and accountability for their actions and developing a sense of determination, trust in each other and leadership skills.

Dennis said: "The players were the latest in a long line of sports people who have come to Challenge 4 Change to improve their skills and team-working, and it was a pleasure to host youngsters who have the potential to become future football stars."

TOP MARKS FROM TRAINEE TEACHERS



Trainee teachers gave Challenge 4 Change the thumbs-up after a team-building trip led by Sharon Mehta, higher education tutor at training provider The Growth Company.

Sharon brought along two groups of students for an evening of team-building and team-bonding exercises.

Afterwards she said: “The students really benefited from going to Challenge 4 Change. It was a fantastic evening and I will be arranging some more sessions in the new year.”

The high-rise Leap of Faith (see pictures) forced the visitors to challenge their fears head-on.

One member of the group said: “I admit I was terrified but felt great afterwards.”

CHAMBER MEMBERS LEARN SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce held an event at Challenge 4 Change designed to help members become more successful at networking.

Few people love networking, but anyone running a business or working in a professional environment has to do it at some stage.

Around 30 Chamber members heard tips from Lucy Lomas of Luma Marketing, which provides strategic marketing advice to professional services firms.

Lucy spoke about the importance of a good handshake and other aspects of non-verbal communication, and she advised how to break into conversations and introduce oneself effectively

She said: “Challenge 4 Change was the ideal venue for this workshop. The well-equipped meeting room overlooks the awesome indoor activity centre, a view that supported my efforts to get people out of their comfort zone and thinking differently.”

Reet Dhallu, the Chamber's regional membership manager for Trafford, said: "The event was a great success. Lucy delivered a very interactive training session which was relevant and engaging. As a Chamber, we hold lots of networking events, so it was a good opportunity to help our members learn how to network effectively."

IN THE PINK AT CHALLENGE 4 CHANGE

Staff at DDW The Color House, a business based in Trafford Park which manufactures colourings for food and drinks, paid a successful visit to Challenge 4 Change for a team-building session.

The company has several newly-created teams and human resources co-ordinator Leanne Turner said DDW wanted an activity which encouraged team-working and effective communication while also offering lots of fun.

She said: "Our aims were most certainly achieved, as we reached great heights and improved our team-working throughout the day.

"We would highly recommend Challenge 4 Change to businesses, sports teams and community groups looking to develop their working relationships while also having a fantastic day out."

WINDFALL FROM PLASTIC BAG CHARGE TOPS £6,000

A terrific gesture by the Entertainment Magpie group to donate the proceeds from the 5p charge for plastic bags to Challenge 4 Change has now raised more than £6,000 for our charity.

The charge was introduced in October 2015 and Entertainment Magpie chose Challenge 4 Change as one of two beneficiaries along with the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Shoppers are charged 5p every plastic bag they buy from retailers in England with 250 or more full-time employees.

Entertainment Magpie operates 30 That's Entertainment stores nationwide selling new and used CDs, DVDs, technology and computer games. The group is based in Stockport and is best-known for its Recommerce website musicMagpie.co.uk.

Dave Djordjevic, chief executive of Challenge 4 Change, said: "We're hugely grateful to Entertainment Magpie for its wonderful support of our charity. The money is making a real difference to us and those who benefit from the services we provide."

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS – AND SUPPORT CHALLENGE 4 CHANGE!

We are offering businesses the chance to advertise their products and services on signs outside our building.

More than 20,000 vehicles pass our activity centre every weekday and the new Metrolink route through Trafford Park will feature a station at the rear of the building.

We are looking to put up signs promoting our facility to commuters and tram passengers and are appealing to businesses to support this initiative by funding their production and installation.

In return, we guarantee a significant presence for their brand on the signs.

For more information, contact chief executive Dave Djordjevic via dave@challenge4change.org or on 0161 359 3399.

MARATHON MAN DAVE CLOCKS UP THE MILES

Our intrepid chief executive Dave Djordjevic certainly enjoys a challenge.

Since late September, he has completed the Loch Ness Marathon (see pic) and the West Coast and Manchester Half Marathons.

Now he is gearing up for the Snowdonia Marathon on Saturday, October 28!

Dave is raising money for Challenge 4 Change and you can support him and offer words of encouragement by visiting www.justgiving.com/davedjrun

For the Manchester Half Marathon, Dave was joined by several staff from The Growth Company, which supports Challenge 4 Change (see pic).

Dave, who is 50, only began training in earnest in April this year and has since lost over 20kg in weight while clocking up the miles.

Next year he will be taking part in the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, the National Three Peaks Challenge, the Manchester Half Marathon again and the Man v Lakes event in the Lake District.

To find out more or if you wish to join Dave in his endeavours, contact info@challenge4change.org

