

Charity No. 1058476



During these difficult and uncertain few months caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, we are striving to support all who need our advice and guidance, even though our school based training has been suspended for the time being to comply with the latest Government guidance.

In response to the latest advice and guidance for the government regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) we are pleased to let you know that our resource centre in Maghull has now reopened. We are now able to process all orders placed for materials and to explore ways in which schools can access training.

More ENDINGS and BEGINNINGS

A very sad goodbye to Sue and Frank McDermott - and thank you both so much!



At the Virtual meeting of the Trustees in March, the Trustees sadly received the resignations of Frank and Sue McDermott. We would like to reflect a little on the immense debt that our charity owes to their dedication and hard work.

Sue McDermott OBE has been a Facilitator, Co-ordinator, RD, member of Management Committee, National Director, Trustee and Non- Executive Director of Rainbows. Sue has been a passionate champion for Rainbows, articulating to many different audiences, the need for it in addressing the emotional health and welfare of children and so removing significant barriers to learning. As National Director, she travelled widely throughout

the UK, ensuring that training needs were met, setting up systems to make Rainbows sustainable, and so ensuring that many more schools had the potential and resources to enhance the lives of bereaved children. Under her direction, our Charity moved from having about 600 schools to 1060. The number has been able to rise significantly higher again thanks to the foundations laid by Sue.

Sue has been a spokesman for Rainbows at National and International level. She negotiated with the Parent Rainbows Company in the USA to allow us to operate on a licence basis so that we were not being crippled with royalties. She set up local training for RDs resulting in better support for new members thus encouraging volunteers to continue in their work. Sue has led several reassessments of the materials and the presentations we use and initiated evaluation projects. Sue introduced new materials and took part in working parties that

resulted in *When Somebody Dies* and *SunRise*. Her enthusiasm and down to earth approach won many friends for Rainbows.

Sue has also supported and trained four people in the role of National Co-Directors. She supported a great initiative in London in the appointment and training of an RD to work under the auspices of the Catholic Children's Society. This resulted in a good number of schools in this area receiving Rainbows training and being able to support following the dreadful Grenfell Tower fire.

Sue was instrumental in leading the reorganising of the Resource Centre in Luton, putting it on a better and more efficient footing. Subsequently Sue had to supervise the removal of the Resource Centre to Werneth Grange, appointing and training Staff and setting up systems for the work there. Sue spent most of the Summer holidays achieving this, working more than 130 hours unpaid to ensure that the Centre would be up and running when the Schools returned in September. Then a very few years later this work had to be done all over again when the Centre had to be moved to Maghull. Sue remained cheerful and diplomatic throughout!

For her Services to Rainbows, Sue was awarded an OBE. This was very well deserved and opened the doors to meetings with important people in the field of education and health as well as a meeting with the Pope! The profile of Rainbows was growing all the time. Sue was also invited to write about Bereavement for the Redemptorist publications. Her legacy is going to be hard to match and we thank Sue for her selfless dedication to Rainbows.

Frank McDermott has been a Trustee since 2002 and the Chair of Trustees since 2011. He has been the driving force behind many initiatives. It was thanks to Frank that Rainbows has been put on a sustainable footing with Regional Committees supported nationally in order to ensure that the work was not just dependant on lone RDs and that the work could continue and even expand. Frank led by example having made a success of Rainbows South Yorkshire.

Frank has been passionate in the cause of making Rainbows financially viable, writing applications for grants, undertaking gruelling interviews for the same cause and never being shy of taking his begging bowl to those who could help us. He must have written hundreds of letters to benefactors and potential benefactors. He has written articles about Rainbows for the National Press and the Catholic Press and never let an opportunity pass if he could use it to make Rainbows better known and plead the cause for bereaved children. He has exploited as many contacts as he could in this mission, none more so than the connections with our very generous benefactors The Mercy Institute.

Frank too spent many voluntary hours on the setting up of the Resource Centres at Werneth Grange and Maghull. Neither move was easy and he has been involved in practical matters, legalities, leases, work with Health and Safety, with Fire Prevention, with telephone lines and internet connections among other trying issues! Frank is always good at thanking people for what they have done. "Huge thanks" is his catchword. We now say, "Huge thanks to Sue and Frank". As a footnote we can add that we are very pleased they will keep their connections with Rainbows through being Patrons of the Charity. *(Anne Dawes, Company Secretary)*

A big thankyou to Andrea



Having spoken to the Heads and Deputies conference for Plymouth Diocese, the diocese kindly followed this up by inviting interested schools to send a representative to a training event at Buckfast Abbey. I was delighted to meet Andrea, a SENCO at a Torbay school. Andrea became a Registered Director and later invited me to see Rainbows in her school and meet some of the lovely facilitators. Andrea also arranged for SENCOs in the area to have a training session introducing them to Rainbows. I loved my visits to Torquay!! I was delighted when in June 2016, Andrea took on the role as National Co-Director (South). Over these years we have worked closely together alongside Sharon, our National Co-Director (North). Her role involved a lot of travelling and meetings with many different schools and organisations. Andrea has offered tremendous support to schools when they have had a sudden death in their community and when they have been living with an anticipated loss.

Andrea has also delivered bereavement and loss training in further and higher educational settings. This is so important if we are to ensure that the all those who need support will receive it and that professionals will become more aware of the often devastating impact of loss in our lives.

I am delighted that Andrea is continuing in her role as a Registered Director and I'm sure she will encourage more schools in her area to become Rainbows schools and she will be continuing to offer ongoing support to schools.

I thank Andrea for all her work for Rainbows and wish her well for the future, keep Rainbows alive in Torbay!
Thank you.

(Sue McDermott OBE)

We welcome our new Chair of Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to share the news that Jan O'Neil has agreed to be the new Chair. Jan has been a Registered Director in the Middlesbrough area and a Trustee for some time. The Trustees are delighted that Jan has taken on this role.

Evaluation Exercise – Report published

Late in the Autumn Term the Evaluation, Research and Development working group, published its report following the evaluation exercise.

'The Impact of Rainbows' has proved to be a significant piece of work which demonstrates the impact Rainbows is having in our schools. Our thanks go to Jan's daughter Naomi, for the work she undertook in the presentation of the report which can be found on the website.

CPD for Registered Directors

Arrangements for the next 1-day CPD for all RDs will be finalised once we are sure of how we will be able to meet and comply with government guidance.

Resource Centre

In response to the latest advice and guidance for the government regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) we are pleased to let you know that our resource centre in Maghull has now reopened. We are now able to process all orders placed for materials and to explore ways in which schools can access training. Please contact your schools to ensure they

I hope you all manage to have a wonderful summer during these difficult times

Please contact me with any news you may have –



SHARON MELIA-CRAVEN

National Co-Director, North

07483 445699

07764431536

sharon.rainbowsgb@btconnect.com

www.rainbowsgb.org