

What a year!




10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA
www.number10.gov.uk

From Samantha Cameron

20 May 2011

Dear Julian

Thank you for inviting me to the opening of the Ealing Mencap Centre yesterday.

It was a very special morning and I really enjoyed meeting everybody there. I cannot believe how much money you managed to raise, it is incredibly impressive and I am sure it will be a huge success. The centre has a wonderfully positive feeling about it and I know that anyone who visits will get so much out of the place.

I wish you and everybody at Ealing Mencap all the best.

Best wishes

SAMANTHA CAMERON

Where do we go from here?



Samantha Cameron's letter from Number 10 shows how impressed she was with what we have achieved so far.

We now need further help to complete our vision for the wonderful new Enterprise Lodge.

Can you help please?

The opening

On the 19th May 2011 Ealing Mencap had the pleasure of receiving Samantha Cameron at our new centre for the learning disabled, Enterprise Lodge. Having cut the ribbon, Mrs Cameron made a guided tour of the building and chatted to some of the people that will be using the building in the years to come.

We've come a long way

The old Enterprise Lodge was erected in 1967 by a group of families who needed a base from which to work together to meet the needs of their children and themselves.

For over forty years, Ealing



Mencap's wide range of activities for the learning disabled were run from this

large prefab, built as a 'temporary structure'! As you can imagine, it was falling apart, despite the efforts of a dedicated team of volunteers.

How have we managed it?

In 2005 Ealing Mencap raised nearly £100,000 to purchase the freehold of Enterprise Lodge and the open space attached to it, representing the very first stage of the redevelopment campaign.

We have since raised a further £1.3 million which has allowed us to rebuild. This was kick-started with a fabulous donation of £500,000 from Barbara and Tony Yerolemou, which still seems unbelievable! The main hall is named after a friend of the family, Crystal Pastidis, who uses the Lodge on a regular basis

Open to all

The new Lodge has been built to the highest modern standards and will extend its use to people with the most profound learning disabilities, including those who need state

of the art changing facilities.

The new space can be used flexibly and caters for a very wide range of individual and group activities.



Situated on the banks of the River Brent, the gardens play a vital additional role, creating outdoor spaces where people with learning disabilities of all ages and abilities can learn, play and enjoy themselves.

Our work continues

The Ealing Mencap mission continues to be vital. At our core is the provision of a voice for people with learning and other disabilities, one of the most vulnerable groups in our society today.

The new Lodge allows us to take this vision into the future. We now have a place for our clients to come and enjoy training, activities and leisure. We hope that it will be a beacon in Ealing from which people with learning disabilities go out to take their place in the community. Likewise, residents in Ealing will have the opportunity to visit our new centre.

With ongoing support from public funding, including the local authority, we can continue to achieve a great deal.

But there is much more that can be done, especially with your help.

WISH ONE

Sports and Healthy Lives Coordinator

Many young men and women love sports and being active, but they need to feel confident and supported in what they are doing. There are many opportunities for various sports and activities in Ealing but they are often difficult to access for people with disabilities. We would like to create a new part-time position to work with voluntary sports groups, the Council and our two local football teams to maximise the existing opportunities for people with disabilities.

£ £20,000 p.a. for a three year post to bring us through 2012 and into the Special Olympics in 2013.



In goal – Vincent Borg

WISH TWO

Volunteer recruitment and management

Ealing Mencap already has many wonderful volunteers, but it could enlist many more people if we had the infrastructure to work with them. A full-time Volunteer Coordinator, or ideally two complementary part-timers, would be able to work closely with existing volunteers and double their number from the current fifty to nearer one hundred. Levels of support for volunteers need to be equal to support for paid staff and without further funding we cannot offer this.

£ £30,000 p.a. for three years.



Rea Basista volunteering with Deirdre Sullivan

WISH THREE

Garden improvements

More capital is needed to invest in the Enterprise Lodge garden, to make it accessible by the greatest range of learning disabled visitors.

£ £25,000 to provide a specialist swing and slide with a safe surface underneath. We've got the site ready (see photo), all we need now is the equipment.

£ £20,000 to create a wildlife wheelchair accessible garden in the triangle of land at the front of Enterprise Lodge for which the Council has no current use.



A bit more about us

Ealing Mencap is an independent registered charity, which is affiliated to the national Mencap charity. We serve the learning disabled population of West London, working closely with other independent Mencap groups from surrounding areas. We have ongoing contact with around 750 people, as well as more casual visitors to our Gateway Clubs. We support people whatever their circumstances, whether they live on their own or with family or professional carers. We now have around 100 staff, many of whom are part-time, supported by an additional 50 regular volunteers.



Mrs Cameron joins Matt Gamble and 2 Belvue School students to play a Travel Training game.

The delightful varandah overlooking the gardens at Enterprise Lodge.



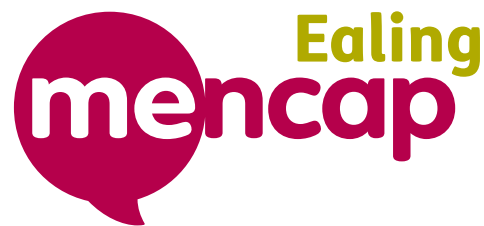
If you are able to help with any of our three wishes, then please contact:

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