

Social Responsibility Bulletin – 3 February 2009

Good Childhood Inquiry Report - Excessive individualism threatens our children, say experts

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warmly welcomed the launch of the 'Good Childhood Report', describing it as 'a clarion call' for society to listen to its children.

The report covers areas of; friends, family, learning, lifestyle, health and values. It also gives recommendations for parents, teachers and Government.

Leading experts today identify excessive individualism as the greatest threat to our children. In a landmark report on A Good Childhood, commissioned by The Children's Society and published by Penguin, they show that children's lives have become more difficult than in the past, and they trace this to excessive individualism.

This produces more family discord and conflict; more pressure to own things; excessive competition in schools; and unacceptable income inequality. According to the panel, excessive individualism needs to be replaced by a value system where people seek satisfaction more from helping others rather than pursuing private advantage.

Please follow this link to see the 'full launch report' or 'summary' of the report: http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/all_about_us/how_we_do_it/the_good_childhood_inquiry/1818.html

The Environment in your Pocket 2008

DEFRA has published the twelfth edition of this annual publication containing material on various environmental themes including climate change, air quality, waste and recycling, land, coastal and marine waters. The main theme of this year's publication is climate change. Visit

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/081211a.htm> for details.

Disaster Emergency Fund's appeal for humanitarian aid for Gaza.

If you would like to support the DE Fund appeal please see the links below:

The BBC has refused to broadcast the Disaster Emergency Fund's appeal for humanitarian aid for Gaza because of BBC 'impartiality'. For further info:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7848673.stm> To protest:

www.bbc.co.uk/complaints

ITV, Channels 4 and 5 will be broadcasting the film appeal. For information on the appeal and to see for yourself what the members of the fund are doing in Gaza see:

CAFOD: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/emergencies/appeals/gaza-crisis/dec-appeal-2009-01-22>

Christian Aid: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies>
Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/news.asp?id=90292>
Islamic Relief: <http://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/CurrentAppeals.aspx>
Save The Children: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

Carriers of Hope

This year over 250 Carriers have been distributed, and gifts of money amounting to £2,000 given. *'Carriers of Hope is not just a Christmas thing—as the needs go on all year round. I would really like to explore opening an outlet – where Asylum Seekers can come and choose the things that they need – at no, or little, cost. Any money raised would be ploughed back into the monetary side of Carriers of Hope. If anyone has any ideas, or any words of support – or just any kinds of feedback, I'd love to hear from you.'* Sue Sampson - smsampson@hotmail.com

Light a Candle for friendship on 14th February

Earlsdon Methodist Church recently held a service for Manal Timraz going to Gaza and Ann Farr going to Bethlehem in February. They want to encourage people to light candles wherever they are on February 14th – a day when friendship is celebrated in Palestine and when Manal hopes to be able to take part in a candlelight event in Gaza and when Ann will be lighting candles for peace with peacemakers in Bethlehem.

Climate Day of Action, Coventry 19th March

Join us in Coventry for Christian Aid's Climate Change Day of Action and speak out against E.ON's coal-fuelled power plans. See link below for further details: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/Countdown-to-Copenhagen-climate-change/come-to-coventry.aspx>

Free Winter Warmer Packs

With older people facing a particularly cold winter this year, Help the Aged is offering older people in the West Midlands a free 3 Steps to a Warmer Winter pack to help weather this cold snap. The pack contains useful contacts and the latest information and advice about claiming benefits and improving energy efficiency in the home; the pack also includes a free thermometer to monitor room temperature.

*A free copy of 3 Steps to a Warmer Winter is available by calling **0800 089 0800***

Fairtrade Fortnight - 23rd February to 8th March

You have made a real difference by buying Fairtrade!

Below are a few facts on how Fairtrade sales have grown in the UK and globally:

- UK Fairtrade sales for the year 2002 were projected to top £53m. Following the 'Choose Fairtrade' initiative, in 2008 the Fairtrade

Foundation revealed an increase of estimated retail sales of Fairtrade products to £493m.

- Globally, consumers worldwide spent £1.6bn on Fairtrade certified products in 2007. This is a 47% increase on the previous year, directly benefiting over 7 million people - farmers, workers and their families in 58 developing countries

Click the link below for info on the 2009 resources for this years 'Fairtrade Fortnight:

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved/fairtrade_fortnight_2009/find_out_more.aspx

*This bulletin is sent from Revd Dr. John Hall, Director for Social Responsibility and Ruth Wagstaffe, Secretary to the Department for Social Responsibility.
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