

## Working With/By Young People 2015

Focus of the Award: Recognising the positive contribution young people make to their local community whilst developing their own skills.

Who is eligible: any club, team, group or individual who has worked to undertake a project that has contributed to community life. It should be evident that the project has specifically helped the young people in their own personal development.

Give details about the project with the **impact** that it has had on the wider community and any **barriers faced**, provide additional information on the achievements of the nominee(s) and how they have **changed the lives** of others within their **community**.

Contact Name:	Contact details:
Tim Hough	timhough@btinternet.com
Church Minshull Youth Club	-
Parish/Town: Church Minshull	Project name: Youth Club Fundraising for RSPCA's Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre

## Project description:

Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre is an RSPCA run centre in our wider Community of Nantwich which cares for and rehabilitates sick, injured, orphaned and confiscated wildlife.

Church Minshull Youth Club decided to support the Centre's  $20^{th}$  Anniversary target to raise £50,000 to buy vital equipment for the hospital, support Stapeley's education programme and help cover the cost of feeding and looking after the animals in care. To learn more about the role that Stapeley Grange plays in the community and the services it provides for wildlife welfare, we visited the centre where the RSPCA Education Officer gave a presentation explaining why and how different wildlife arrives and what happens to them once they are there. The children, aged 7-13, were all interested and engaged as they learned about different species of animals and the threats to their welfare. All were from a Rural Village Community and had grown up living with animals, but they were being given a different perspective on animal welfare, which challenged them to think more widely.

The children, keen to do more to support the work of the RSPCA, collected sponsors for a Fundraising event at Youth Club. We held a Sponsored Pampered Pets Evening, inviting pets and parents to come along. At the event each of the children were given time to talk about their pets; this of course was good for their personal development to improve their presentation skills and confidence. They were encouraged to look after their pets properly by spending some time at Youth Club grooming them, and were

Return by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015:

to

Sylvia Batty, Cheshire Community Action, Suite G7, Ground Floor, Northwich Business Centre, Meadow Street, Northwich CW9 5BF

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reminded of the importance of exercise as the pets completed an agility course in the hall, putting the dogs through their paces.

It was an excellent evening, money was raised and the children were pleased to have been able to support the work of Stapeley Grange which, in 2014, had a significant impact on the wider community by rescuing and caring for over 6,500 wild and domestic animals. The event was publicised in the local magazine and on the village website, raising awareness in the local community. In their personal lives the children are now more knowledgeable in regard to looking after their own animals, caring for other animals and taking more care of the environment and wildlife conservation.

Skills and knowledge acquired while participating in the event have been a good experience to help the children and empower them to continue their work with the RSPCA and to support other Charities and Organisations.



Church Minshull Youth club present cheque to RSPCA Stapely.

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