

## Queen's representative praises CrossReach projects

The Lord High Commissioner, who is the Queen's representative at the General Assembly, has thanked staff at a CrossReach project for adults with learning disabilities for 'dedicating their lives' to helping people. In his speech at the closing session of the General Assembly, His Grace Richard Scott, Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry said it was a 'privilege' to visit Threshold Support Services in Hamilton, South Lanarkshire. His Grace said the service supports young people with "challenging development difficulties, helping them to transition from home life to being in the community and



being with them along their whole journey through life into old age." He added he was particularly struck by staff who have dedicated their lives to "looking after those with constant needs in a loving Christian way" for at least 20 years. The Duke of Buccleugh also commended Morlich House in Edinburgh for its innovative '1950s street' which includes a working sweet shop plus a room and kitchenette decorated in the style of the 1950s. While visiting the CrossReach marquee at the Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens His Grace was shown a display featuring items from the unique project and said that he thought it was an excellent idea which could help the residents remember past times in their lives.

## CrossReach – 'Care you can put your faith in'

CrossReach has launched a redesigned website and has adopted a new strapline – 'Care you can put your faith in.' CrossReach Chief Executive Officer Viv Dickenson said: "It's 13 years since we launched CrossReach in June 2005 and we felt it was time to give it a bit of a makeover and update our website. We worked closely with a company called Story in Edinburgh who suggested changing our strapline from 'providing a caring future' to 'Care you can put your faith in'.



# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

I think this is an excellent phrase which reinforces that we remain part of the Church of Scotland, and work hard to provide quality care which makes a real difference to all those

who use our services. You will see the new look rolled out across the organisation in the coming months." Please visit our new website at: [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk) and we would welcome any comments by e-mail to: [bdd@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:bdd@crossreach.org.uk).

## Swimming in stamps - and we love it!

Thank you for all the stamps and other collectables you are sending in to CrossReach! The response so far has been amazing! Not a day goes by without you sending us at least one package of stamps. We even received two black bags full of stamps recently. We love all the stamps we receive, whether by the envelope or the black bag. We are also grateful for receiving your stamp albums, first day cover collections, war medals, old coins, postcard collections, cigarette card collections, and any other collectable you want to send. Your stamps and collectables are turned into care in many of CrossReach's Children and Family services, such as Daisy Chain in Govanhill and the Visitors' Centre at HMYOI Polmont. Please tell everyone you know that we welcome stamps, stamp collections and other collectables - and together we'll see more children and families receive the loving care and support they need. Thank you.

- To find out more, please phone us on: 0131 454 4374 or e-mail: [supporters@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:supporters@crossreach.org.uk)

## Convener outlines recruitment challenges for CrossReach

In his speech to the General Assembly the Convener of the Social Care Council Bill Steele explained the recruitment challenges facing CrossReach: "Like many other providers of social care CrossReach is experiencing some difficulty in attracting staff and we have recognised this as an important area of focus for us as it is key to the delivery of good quality services. Recognising that there is no one answer we have been concentrating on introducing a number of different strands of activity which we hope will make a significant difference to recruitment. One of these is a new pilot partnership with The Princes Trust on a 'Get into Social Care' initiative, through which we will offer work placements and interviews to a number of young people who have already been supported by a Princes Trust employability and life skills programme and are interested in a career in care. We have also opened up new pathways into volunteering through a recently launched volunteer strategy, so that people are able to gain new experiences and test out how their own skills and talents may be suited to working in care."



"We also recognise that digital technology is increasingly important to help streamline processes, but also in offering new ways of supporting people who are using the services. A number of pilot projects are underway as part of the digital technology strategy. These include: the use of phablets to support staff who are lone working access care plans easily and support service users to update them at each visit; development of an online counselling platform which will allow people in remote and rural areas to access support as appropriate; exploration of technologies which will support a 'paper light' working environment and also reduce time spent travelling to meetings. We will be watching all of these initiatives with interest, and believe that they are important steps along the journey to sustainability."



- CrossReach job vacancies can be found on our new website: [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)

## Take the Zip Wire Challenge

How do you fancy the experience of a lifetime? The Zip Wire Challenge takes place in Aviemore on Saturday 22nd September 2018 with 14 fantastic zip wires - 2km of zipping through the trees over a stunning gorge. Your trip will last around 2.5 hours. It's only £20 to sign up and £100 minimum fundraising pledge. Very limited places! You can sign up here: <http://tiny.cc/a8rnty> or e-mail: [rebecca.tennant@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.tennant@crossreach.org.uk) for more information.



## Has your church website got the CrossReach widget?

Has your church website uploaded the CrossReach Prayer Diary 'widget'? More churches are featuring our weekly prayers on their website and are finding it a helpful resource for their members. Here's one comment: "It's an easy and interesting way for individuals and groups in our congregation to pray for the work of CrossReach." If you would like to join the many churches supporting CrossReach through our Prayer Diary widget, please e-mail: [hugh.brown@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:hugh.brown@crossreach.org.uk) and you will receive a link with an easy to follow guide on how to upload it. The page will automatically update every week with a new set of prayers about one of CrossReach's services.