

Welcome to Southend in Sight's Autumn edition of Fundraising News.

Our funding applications have been very successful over the last few months. We have received grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Community Investment Board, Active Southend and Southend City Council. Between them, they are helping to fund some of the cost of running our drop-in sessions and some of our activities for adults and children. We are very grateful to all the funders for the trust they have placed in us to deliver our various projects.



As one of the Mayor's chosen charity's, we have been attending some of his fundraising events. At the launch of the Mayoral year, we were proud to showcase our charity and the work that we do.

One of our trustees – Penny – gave a very moving speech (read from braille) about the difference a local

sight loss charity can make, with her Guide Dog Questa sitting patiently by. The photo above shows Catherine Hodgson, Penny Hefferan and Questa, local MP David Burton-Sampson and Lucy Martin at the event.

We are always grateful to people from the local community who choose to raise money for us. Janice and her husband Clint Price, from Cobra Lifting Services, hosted a "CobraFest" in July.



They organised a rock and roll night, a classic car display, music, food, entertainment and a raffle across a whole weekend. Their friends, family and neighbours donated to help reach their target of £2,000

The photo left shows Harvey holding Rory the bear, his grandparents Marion and David (left) with Janice and Clint (right). Our thanks to everyone involved, especially Janice and Clint, for raising an amazing amount for us.

Our charity shop remains open at 117 Hamlet Court Road, raising vital funds for us. The plan is for our shop to still be situated here, even after we secure a sale for the property. No news on this front at the moment, but we will keep you updated.

Sarah and Debbie continue to work well together running a happy ship, with the support of our volunteers. As always, they are reliant on the donations we receive to generate good sales. If you do happen to have any clothing, shoes or bags that you no longer wear or use, please do think of dropping them off to us. Don't forget our new number to call the charity shop directly with any queries: **07351 735213**.

If you can spare £5 a month, you could join our Diamond Club and help support our work. We can offer talks to any group or organisation that wishes to hear about our charity.

For more information on this and any other fundraising enquiries, please call **Catherine Hodgson** or **Liz Payne** on **01702 34 21 31**.

Southend in Sight

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