

## **ROMSEY MILL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021**

Welcome to the Romsey Mill Christmas Appeal for 2021.

This year we are asking people to partner with us and help raise funds to support and grow the vital work of Aspire.

Aspire currently supports 150 autistic young people (9 – 18 year olds) in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire who are in mainstream education, and their families. Aspire is the only provision of its type in Cambridgeshire, and so we also want to be able to help those who are not yet able to access any support.

Our weekly Aspire youth clubs create a safe and welcoming social space for autistic young people to interact at a level at which they are comfortable. We offer a high ratio of support from committed volunteers. Young people come to relax and be themselves, and to do things that they enjoy and talk with our experienced youth workers about anything, including their interests and any difficulties they have experienced that week.

Our Aspire youth workers also offer one-to-one support for young people attending the youth groups. We focus on issues identified by the young person and help them find and practice strategies to manage. These issues include support for participation and learning.

We also provide practical advice and support to parents with completing application forms for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP); and can assist and advocate for them at meetings with their child's school and other professionals.

### **How you can help**

Here are some simple ideas:

**Christmas Cards** – rather than sending each of their colleagues individual Christmas cards, provide one large card for everyone to write their messages to each other in and then ask for them to donate the money they have saved on cards to Romsey Mill.

**Raffle** – you could hold a Christmas Raffle – a few bottles of wine or boxes of chocolates and some donations from staff members, and you have a simple fundraiser ready for the run up to Christmas. Or if you're having a Christmas meal, why not sell the tickets there?

**Christmas Meal games** – Have you heard of Heads and Tails? A simple and fun game that can be played at any Christmas meal. Ask all attendees to make a donation (£1-£5) and then you play in rounds.

Each competitor must put their hands on their head or their tail (hips). The caller flips a coin, and whichever it lands on eliminates the people in the same position – ie if the coin lands heads up, then all with hands on their head are eliminated. The game continues until only 1 person is left. Choose an appropriate small prize for your winner, and send the proceeds from the entrance fees to us at Romsey Mill.

Patrons:  
The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely  
Colin Greenhalgh CBE DL  
Lady Wilson of Dinton  
Registered Charity (No: 1069905)  
Limited Company Registered in England & Wales (No: 3556721)

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**Name the reindeer/elf** – if a staff member is willing to donate a toy reindeer or elf, you can set up a simple competition to name the toy. Charge a fee to enter a name and put all the names into a “hat”.

**Cake Sale** – hold a Christmas cake/bake sale – who doesn’t love a mince pie at this time of year, and homemade ones, are even better. Hold a cake sale and let everyone sample each other’s mince pies and Christmas bakes.

**Christmas Clothing day** – encourage your staff to come to work in their craziest Christmas attire – be it t-shirts, dresses, trousers or the good old faithful jumper. What accessories can they add – earrings, ties, socks, hats! Ask everyone to make a donation and celebrate the fun together while making a difference!

### **Into 2022....**

There are other ways a company can help not just this Christmas but longer term. Here are some things you can do to become more involved in supporting Romsey Mill

**Charity of the Year** - Some companies have a Charity of the Year. Could Romsey Mill be your charity of the year? If you don’t currently have a COTY scheme, maybe we could be your first charity?

*What does this mean for your company?*

Over the year of the partnership, we would expect the company to hold various events or activities for staff which would help raise funds for Romsey Mill. This could be through ideas like those mentioned above, or through challenges – three peaks, half marathons, board games marathon – which groups of staff can take part in and raise funds through sponsorship.

### **Golf Day**

Could you hold a golf day? Do you have clients you could invite to take part in a golf day for a fee? You can invite as many as you feel would work for your day, and you can include competitions like longest drive and closest to the tee. All teams pay a registration fee plus additional money can be raised through raffles and even a silent auction.

### **Quiz**

You could host a quiz – online or in person – with multiple rounds, and teams across departments. Money is raised through entrance fees per team or individual.

### **Raffles**

Holding a raffle for donated prizes is a great simple way to raise money. Ask some staff to donate prizes and then encourage everyone to buy tickets.

### **Corporate Fundraising Challenge**

Could a team of your employees take on a challenge – walking 5000 steps a day while working from home, taking on the Cambridge Half Marathon or another similar run, cycling, climbing – the list is endless. Encouraging a team to take on the challenge, which can then raise money through sponsorship.

### **Matched Giving**

Can you offer matched giving on donations that your staff make to Romsey Mill or for fundraising events that they choose to hold? This will double the money they can make.

For more information on how you can support the work of Aspire and Romsey Mill through fundraising please contact Rachel Thomas [Rachel.thomas@romseymill.org](mailto:Rachel.thomas@romseymill.org) or call 07818 665323.