



Prayer Bulletin

"Serving the Youth of Ayrshire"

Winter 2008

Greetings from The Ark!

We would like to thank you for all your support for our work here at The Ark. We appreciate the very tangible support we receive – particularly from the many volunteers who help keep The Ark afloat. Also important to us is the consistent support given through prayer. We thank you for your continued prayers for The Ark as we constantly seek God's will for the project.

Give thanks

It never ceases to amaze us how much God blesses The Ark and the work being done in this place. Please join us in giving thanks for the amazing team of volunteers who give up their time every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday to come to The Ark to serve and get alongside the young people. They really are the heart of The Ark as we strive to step in time with the pulse of God.

The Ark is set to feature in a new book exploring a number of centres of excellence in Youth Work across the UK. The book, written by Ken Wilson – a Youth Work lecturer at the International Christian College – will detail how and why we do things the way we do, how effective it is and why, and setting out standards of professionalism and excellence that can be duplicated by youth work practitioners. We consider it a great privilege that The Ark has been recognised for inclusion in this exciting resource.

The Ark Film Project 2008

During the summer, a group of young people who regularly attend The Ark worked with staff and volunteers to create a short film called 'Label'. 'Label' tackles the issues between youth sub-cultures and the precarious and sometimes violent relationship between groups such as "Neds", "Moshers", "Goths" and "Emos". The premiere launch of the film took place on Thursday 23rd October and was attended by over a hundred invited guests. Attendees included Provost Winifred Sloan, Inspector Smith, Inspector Ramsay, John Scott MSP and Cathy Jamieson MSP. All who attended were very supportive of the positive message 'Label' promotes and complimented the young people on their achievement in creating such a powerful and professional film in such a short space of time and on a very small budget. Also, there was a suggestion from Cathy Jamieson MSP to have 'Label' shown in the Scottish Parliament. Please pray for The Ark as we discuss how to move 'Label' forward and as we apply for funding in order to continue these film projects.



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The Ayr Ark is a Scottish Charity No SC035832

Regular Events

Wednesday Lunches

The Ark is open from 12pm – 2pm for lunches every Wednesday. The majority of our guests are young people from Ayr Academy but we also have some adult members of the community coming down to the café too. Please pray for us as we reach out and serve even more of the community of Ayrshire. Please pray, also, for more volunteers to come on board to allow us to open on other days of the week also. If you are interested in volunteering at the lunch café, please do not hesitate to get in touch with James or Tracy at the office on (01292) 264020.

Wednesday After School

In addition to the lunch café, The Ark is also open from 3.30pm – 6.30pm on a Wednesday afternoon. This after-school club gives us the chance to reach out and build relationships with many young people, some of which do not attend the weekend events. Please pray for direction for the team as we seek God's will in what to do with these young people. We want to make the best of the time we have with them, building up and encouraging those who attend.

Friday Night Events

Friday night events still prove to be popular. Numbers dropped for a time when a mainstream nightclub in the town centre began to run under 18's events but, after some promotion in the schools, our numbers have risen again. Join us in giving thanks for the young people in S1 – S3 who attend, especially our 'regulars', but please pray for these young people as they begin to open up to us about the issues in their lives and as the team seeks to support and encourage them.

Saturday Night Events

The Ark works with 100 local bands each year as we run weekly band nights. Saturday nights are well attended and we have a large core of young people who come along every week. Please pray for the relationships being developed with these young people, especially as we consider inviting some of them to join The Ark volunteer team.

'Think U Know' Internet Safety Training

'Think U Know' is an exciting new resource created by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) to help teach young people about the dangers of the internet and how to stay safe online. James Faddes (Team Leader) and Carol Thomson (Volunteer) have undertaken the ambassador training for this course, meaning they can now train other adults to roll out this course to young people. To date, Carol and James have trained a group of schools workers (including guidance teachers, head teachers and police) and some local youth workers. The hope is that this training will be rolled out across the secondary schools in Ayr. In fact, James and Carol have already delivered the training to 1st and 2nd year pupils at Girvan Academy. Please pray for this venture as The Ark steps into training and gets this vital presentation out to as many young people as possible.

Finances

It will cost about £120,000 to run The Ark each year. Some revenue does come from the young people who use The Ark but around £80,000 still has to be sought from external sources. Please pray for The Ark as we continually apply for outside funding, as well as encouraging local churches and individuals to support the project in anyway they can. Without financial support, The Ark cannot continue. Please pray that funding bodies, churches and trusts would look favourably on our applications and that God's will is done. Gift aid forms are available from the office.

Volunteers

Although we have an amazing volunteer team who are fully committed and dedicated to the project, it has become apparent that we need to enlarge our team. Please pray for new volunteers as they go through the application process and pray, also, that anyone who is feeling prompted by God would step forward to serve here at The Ark. The volunteer team truly are central and crucial to the work that is done here.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers.

Tracy Stevenson

Assistant Manager

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