



Daniel's Den



Together Everyone Achieves More

Annual Report

1st September 2015 – 31st August 2016



Registered charity number 1147172 Company Limited by Guarantee 5303714

www.danielsden.org.uk



CONTENTS

Letter from the Director	Page 4
Review of 2015-2016	Page 5-14
Our impact and outcomes	Page 15/16
Fundraising review	Page 17
Financial review	Page 18
Special thanks	Page 19

OUR MISSION

Our purpose is to encourage and enrich family life in order to build stronger communities

We have a vision to see

- **Parents and children having the opportunity to ‘know and be known’ in their local community**
- **People building ‘relationships that matter’ within and beyond their cultural/ethnic group**



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Message from the Director

Twinkle Twinkle little star continues to be a favourite song we sing and this year it is even more special as we have had a star named Daniel's Den in recognition of our 20th anniversary being celebrated in November 2016. The gift was given by a lovely lady and her son who I met on Wembley High Road 18 months ago through our Open Table project, and this little family from Romania have totally embraced what it means to belong to the family of Daniel's Den.



Stars shine bright but we don't always see them. The same can be said about the work we do. So much can so easily be taken for granted yet for those individuals who need that cup of tea, that space to feel they belong where people not only know their name but also what's going on in their lives—we are there. For almost 20 years we have provided that safe space with a warm welcome. A space for children and parents/carers to play and learn together.

'It's pay back time' were the words of a mum whose daughter came to Daniel's Den 17 years ago. We were at a recent local community festival and having a volunteer shortage. One phone call later and 3 teenagers formed a team of face painters who painted over 100 faces—bringing joy to so many. These teenagers became friends at Daniel's Den when they were babies (their mums too) and over the years these friendships have blossomed in so many ways.

Small acts of kindness are sown as seeds and whilst we experience some of the immediate benefits, the long term impact may never fully be known. As we approach our 20th celebrations an impact booklet is being created—telling stories of lives changed because of the encounter with Daniel's Den. Lives that are influencing others, taking the TEAM spirit of Daniel's Den into the wider community.

Our mission to encourage and enrich family life in order to build stronger communities is being fulfilled and we look forward to the ripples continuing into the next 20 years. I consider it a privilege to have had the joy of meeting so many wonderful families and working with a great team of volunteers over the years. I never imagined Daniel's Den would become what it is today and my hearts desire is that it will continue to be a place where the love of God is known and made known in our communities.

REVIEW

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS

We ran 5 toddler sessions each week throughout Brent, bringing a sense of care and belonging to many families. Having a safe warm place to bring your children means so much to local families and it's great to see the babies/toddlers coming with mum, dad, grandparents, aunts/uncles, child minders or au pairs. The range of toys and activities creates a rich learning environment where new friendships are formed and people developing a real sense of belonging.

These are the sessions we ran each week.

- **Tuesday 9am-10.30am @ Elsley Primary School**
- **Tuesday 9.30am-11am & 11.30am-1pm @ St Michael and All Angels, Stonebridge**
- **Tuesday 1pm-3pm @ Gladstone Park Primary School**
- **Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am @ St Andrews, Sudbury**

We were thrilled to open a new group in Rotherham in January 2016! Judith, a youth and community worker at the Blackburn community centre, recognised that there was a need for a parent and toddler group in the area. The nearest facility was a 30 minute walk away or a two bus journey. She had heard about Daniel's Den and approached us about opening one. After a number of discussions, a car load of toys (kindly donated by families and friends of Daniel's Den) was



taken to Rotherham, along with the core outline of what we do. This group has been attended by a number of families in the local area and with improved publicity we are sure this group is going to become such a vital part of the local area.

Running excellent sessions where everyone feels they belong — providing the opportunity to play and learn together - is our aim. Giving people the opportunity to give and receive support and encouragement builds community and has a much wider impact than the one and half/two hours!

TRUSTEES

This year we said goodbye to Bea Simpson who has been a trustee for a number of years. She has helped Daniel's Den in many ways especially with our health and safety! We welcomed Keith Brown as our new chair and Caroline Winterburn. Keith is a dad and grandad and has known about Daniel's Den since before it started. He brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the role including a love of spread sheets. Caroline has been running a toddler group in Brent for 25+ years and her practical knowledge as well as passion for people strengthens our board.



During the year we rewrote our safeguarding policy and are presently putting a new database in place. We are delighted to now have a paid part time administrator Annette who is an asset to the team. Plans are being made to expand our work so we can reach more families.

PARENTING POSTCARDS

- Postcard 1: **You are the best parent for your child**
- Postcard 2: **Dealing with disappointments**
- Postcard 3: **What do children really need?**
- Postcard 4: **The need for love**
- Postcard 5: **The power of words**
- Postcard 6: **4 magic words to teach your children**
- Postcard 7: **Routines**
- Postcard 8: **Talking and Listening**
- Postcard 9: **Handling challenging behaviour**
- Postcard 10: **Eating**
- Postcard 11: **Memories**
- Postcard 12: **Investing time**



CREATIVITY & SENSORY PLAY

This has been a major feature of the year as people have shared ideas ...



From 'Pop Up' Daniel's Dens in the local park to sharing sewing ideas, from sports days to snipping days ... there is so much more to Daniel's Den than you can imagine!



I like Daniel's Den because its close to my house – very easy for me to get there and my child have so many things to do

It's a unique opportunity for my child to meet other children

OUR 20TH YEAR



We are in the midst of celebrating our 20th anniversary. We have had tea parties when parents and children have been able to come along to Tokyngton Community Centre to share memories

VISITORS

We welcomed many visitors and organisations during the year including:

Diabetes UK; Mahdi from Brent CFIS; various speech therapists promoting the Gimme 5 campaign; Sharon from dental health plus newly qualified dentists as part of Health Education England's 'Now you have teeth' project; and a student from Roehampton University who was doing a dissertation on 'Attachment and parenting'.



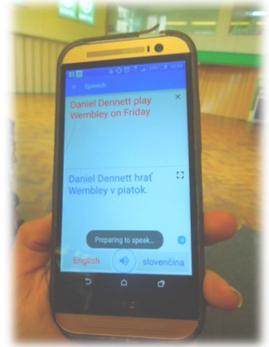
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering is a key feature of DD and our groups would not exist without the invaluable help of our volunteers. We like to think we create a culture for volunteering and we encourage everyone to do what they can – Together Everyone Achieves More. If you would like to help out more please let us know – there are lots of things that need doing and not necessarily during the sessions.

Sindhu

In December 2013 we ran a parenting course at Elsley Primary School and there I met a parent called Sindhu. She had recently arrived in the country from India and her son was attending the nursery. I invited her to come and visit DD as she said she had some spare time and didn't know anyone in the local area. She came and has never stopped coming. At first she was quite shy and unconfident but, over time, her confidence has grown and she has demonstrated an amazing way of getting alongside people and making people feel welcome.

One day she met a Slovakian grandmother who spoke no English—she was sad about this and after talking with her husband, she downloaded a translation app on her phone. What a wonderful way to connect.



Sindhu started taking photographs in the session and has shown a brilliant flair for this—in fact, many of the photographs in this report are hers.

Watching Sindhu blossom in the group has been a joy and 6 months ago she applied for and got a part time job at Wembley Stadium as part of the host team!

‘Without the experiences at Daniel’s Den I would never have had the confidence to apply for the job but now I feel I can talk to people from so many backgrounds’.

WEMBLEY TICKETS

We continue to receive tickets for England matches and I know many families are thrilled to go to Wembley for the first time! One of the highlights this year were tickets for Rhianna and also, poignantly for the France v England match days after the bombings in Paris. In the present climate, where there are so many examples of hatred and violence, it's groups like ours that break down



barriers and build friendships. It was a delight that Alex, a past member of Daniel's Den who is proudly French was able to go to the match with her daughter. On another occasion a former homeless man who now volunteers in a charity was able to attend a match—he hadn't been on a train since 1967.

GIVING AND RECEIVING



Donations continue to be received by Daniel's Den and these come in the form of toys and equipment people no longer need; time, as in volunteering, and sometimes even money!!

At Daniel's Den we like to give and sow seeds into other parts of the world. For a number of years we have been making

regular donations to charities that work with children and families and these include Care for the Family and ALMA—Angola, London and Mozambique Association. Recently the pot of money was used to help a crèche in Hokwe and we bought chairs, stationery and even 300 chickens! Its wonderful that out of our small gifts we are reaching other parts of the world. We are thrilled to be supporting work in Uganda and are hoping to develop links in the 5 continents.



WILLOWS FARM VISIT

We were absolutely thrilled to take 101 people to Willows Farm in June. Despite the torrential rain, we had the most wonderful time. Animals were fed, milked and stroked! 47% of all participants said that the tractor ride was their highlight, especially being showered with water when we went round corners. This was a wonderful intergenerational experience as a number of elderly folks came from the St Michael's drop in. 91 year old Jean was delighted to be feeding a horse



RIPPLES

Daniel's Den has been likened to a pebble in a pond as the ripples go far and wide

The 'St Michael's drop in' is one of these ripples and it came as a result of The Open Table project we ran last year. We create opportunity for them to share fun and friendships and also develop intergenerational links with our toddler groups. For many families there is limited contact with the older generation as they live in other countries—by facilitating these meeting points there is the opportunity for more learning to take place. We even took one of our nativity plays into a local nursing home.



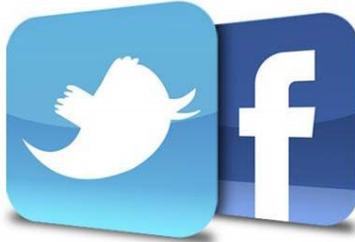
We continue to lead the Brent Parent and Toddler Network and we had a conference in October—Born to Stand out. We also ran the London Prayer Marathon in June.



SOCIAL MEDIA

@DanielsDenUK

DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore



With an informative face book page and daily tweets, we endeavour to keep people informed about what's going on ... why not follow us?

THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE SAY....

Thank you for sharing your feedback re what you like about DD and what you would like to see taking place.

Things you like, include:

'I like the way they serve fruits, asking kids to sit together, they learn how to eat'

'Warm and cosy, welcoming and down to earth atmosphere'

'I feel at home here – I love it here, it really helps'

'I like the motto of Daniel's Den 'Together Everyone Achieves More' – it is like you can keep the motto all my life'

'It's like a big family'



Of course Funny Bunny loves Daniel's Den and people love Funny Bunny!

Things you would like to see improved or included:

'More on exercise for children and parents. Dancing to songs – hokey cokey'

'Sometimes I feel cliques form – not in a bad way but can feel a bit lonely/ uncomfortable when it's not your language/culture'

'More opportunities for children to play together could be created'

'Maybe more information about what is going on in the area'

'Can we have music with singing? Also, story telling'

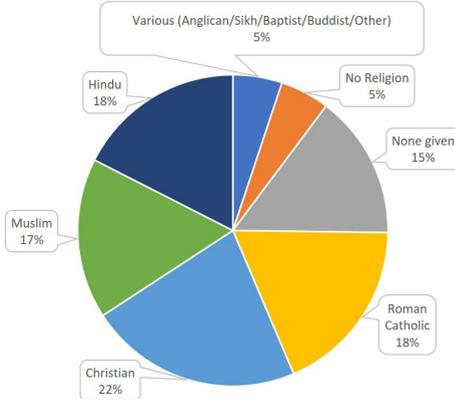
'I joined the dentist because of Daniel's Den'



OUR IMPACT

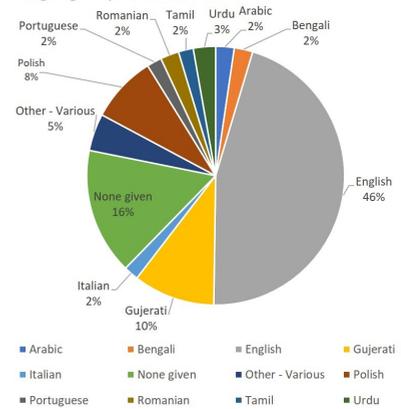
WE WORKED WITH 237 FAMILIES

Religion/faith

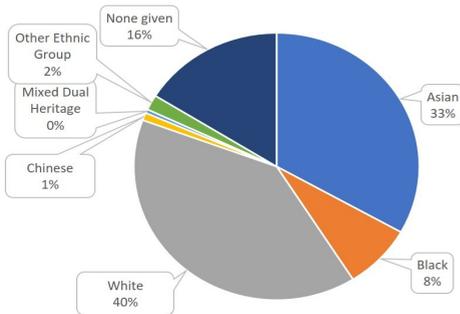


Languages

Languages spoken at Home



Ethnic background of the children—more details available on request



OUTCOMES

There are many outcomes from our sessions which will never be known . For example: new friendship groups leading to reduced isolation; space for children to run around and develop gross motor skills in ways not possible in cramped living conditions. However, we know this year that:

- ◆ The visit from Diabetes UK resulted in one mum losing 12 KG, her husband lost 22 KG and her mother in law started exercising
- ◆ Over 50 % said they had made at least 2 new friends as a result of coming to our sessions and some said they'd made 'many many many'
- ◆ We have a new part time administrator, providing the opportunity for 10-2 term time only working hours

NEXT YEAR 2016-2017

We will be celebrating our 20th anniversary in the autumn term and there will be cake in each of our groups in the week beginning November 14th!

We are working on our structure in order to be in a position to open more DD sessions in response to requests from local housing associations and community groups - our ultimate aim is to 'reach more families'. We start a new group at the Yellow Pavilion—next door to the Wembley Stadium in September 2016.



FUNDRAISING

We could not do what we do without the generosity of others. We have a small group of regular givers and others who participate in fundraising activities.

Elijah and Areyeh ran the Ealing Mini Mile fun run, we had a Smarties campaign (collecting 20p's), donations of goods from Tesco at Brent Park .



CAKE SALES



We had some cakes sales to raise funds for Daniel's Den. We are a charity and receive no funding from the government. We were able to buy our Good News Rainbow Rug and this gives the opportunity for people to share good news whether it's a new job, your child has slept through the night or your 5th (and final) child has stopped wearing nappies!

PLATES



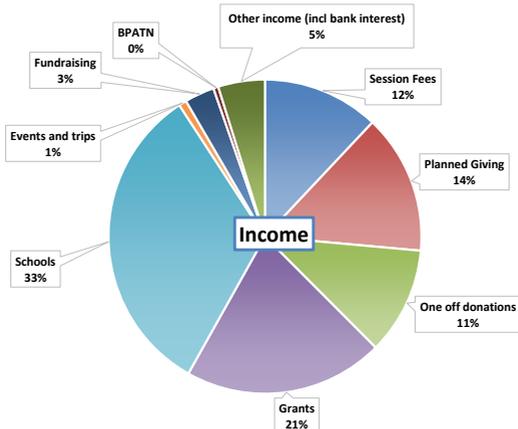
GRANTS

We were successful in receiving funding from Edward Harvist, Garfield Weston and Seedbed.

'We are always looking for fundraisers and volunteers to join our team and welcome any fundraising ideas in the year ahead.'

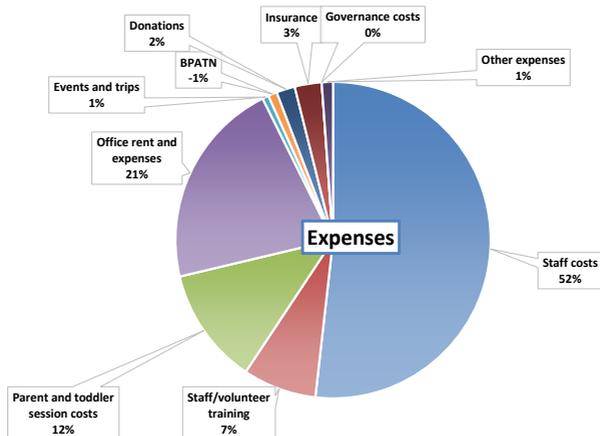
FINANCE REPORT

Over the year we raised £24045.72



PLEASE NOTE: During the year DD took on an interest free loan of £5,000 to manage its cash flow.

Payments and expenditure were as expected and in total £25,563.44 was spent. This chart shows how the money was spent during the year.



If you would like a copy of our full financial accounts please contact info@danielsden.org.uk
 Thank you for all your help and support this year. Ron Herbert—Treasurer

SPECIAL THANKS

GO TO...

Anonymous donors

Edward Harvist, Garfield Weston, Seedbed

Cake bakers and buyers!

Regular givers

Tesco

Volunteers who give their time



Like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore](http://www.facebook.com/DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore)

Follow us on twitter:

[@DanielsDenUK](https://twitter.com/DanielsDenUK)

Visit our website:

www.danielsden.org.uk

Email us:

info@danielsden.org.uk

Phone:

02089086986

Address:

Daniel's Den Office, c/o St Andrews Church,
956 Harrow Road, Sudbury HA0 2QA

Director:

Jo Gordon

Trustees:

Keith Brown, Ronald Herbert, Phello Ekango,
Peter Kearney, Caroline Winterburn
and Jo Gordon

Registered UK charity number:

1147172

Company Limited by Guarantee:

5303714

Registered Office address:

38 Berkhamsted Avenue, Wembley,
Middlesex HA9 6DT





www.danielsden.org.uk

