

Press release Monday 11th December 2023

LEISURE CENTRE GOERS DONATE HUNDREDS OF NEW TOYS TO LOCAL CHARITIES AS PART OF NEW CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Fitness fans in South Gloucestershire have donated hundreds of new toys to local children facing hardship this year as part of a Christmas campaign being run through the region's leisure centres.

And staff from the Active Centres, which are run by Circadian Trust in partnership of South Gloucestershire Council, have already delivered more than 200 of the new gifts to local charities.

All the toys received are being distributed through two local organisations focused on young people: Bristol Children's Charity; and Bristol and Weston Hospitals Charity.

Circadian Trust launched the Christmas Toy Exchange at the end of November, which offers a free day pass for every new toy donated and says it's been "truly heartwarming" to see the response.

Everyone who donates a new toy also gets entered into a prize draw for a VIP six-month Active Centres membership to any of the five Active Centres in the region, which are located in Bradley Stoke, Thornbury, Yate, Kingswood, and Longwell Green.

Mark Crutchley, Circadian Trust CEO, said: "Helping people keep healthy is at the centre of everything we do – and that extends beyond working out or going for a swim.

"Central to keeping well is a strong and supportive community and the Toy Exchange is our way of helping families who may be feeling the pinch this Christmas and at the same time rewarding this generosity with free access to our services.

"It has been truly heartwarming to see how many people have already donated and we're looking forward to delivering lots more toys to our partner charities on the run up to the day itself."

First up on the delivery list was Bristol Children's Charity, which is based in Hanham, near the Longwell Green centre.

Julie Houselander, Trustee for Bristol Children’s Charity, said: “It is a wonderful experience every year to see how many people want to lift the spirits of children and families that are experiencing hardship.

“It is a tough time of year for many, so we are incredibly grateful to all the generosity of everyone who donated and to Circadian Trust and its fabulous employees for their wholehearted kindness.

“To be given a gift of health, as it were, in return for donating is perfect. It’s this kind of community focus that makes positive things happen not just for today but for a better future overall.”

To find out more about Active Centres Christmas Toy Exchange visit www.activecentres.org.



Active Centres Christmas Helpers! Joanna Bond, Byron Grigg, Jason Hunt, Jeff Martin, Maddie Webb, Carley Hogan, and Carole Weeks.

Ends

Notes to editors

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About Circadian Trust

Circadian Trust is an innovative, social enterprise operating as an independent charity, which successfully manages five Active Lifestyle Centres across South Gloucestershire.

These are located in Bradley Stoke, Kingswood, Longwell Green, Thornbury and Yate.

The Trust works in close partnership with South Gloucestershire Council helping to deliver an overall shared philosophy to contribute to the improved health, cultural and social wellbeing, and quality of life the local community.

Any profit made by the Trust is reinvested back into the business to improve facilities, equipment, and services for its customers and the local community.

For more information, visit: www.activecentres.org/about-us/