

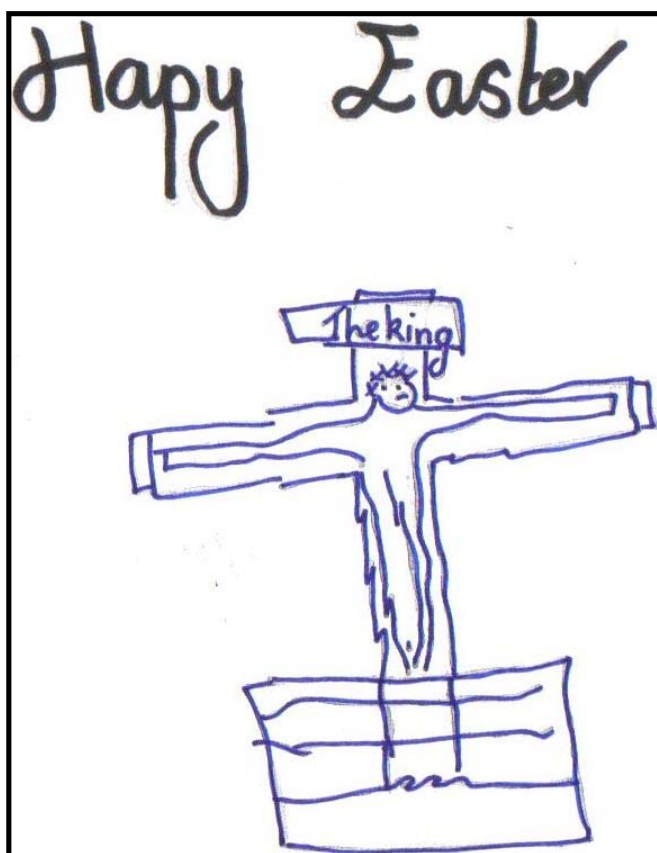
FOCUS

Newsletter
April 2006

Spring
board
for children

"Learning support for young lives"

On behalf of all the staff and volunteers at Springboard for Children, we would like to wish you a very Happy Easter.



Easter is when Jesus died then
came back to life then you get a
holiday from school for two weeks.
Then people buy Easter eggs for you
then the Easter bunny brings the
Easter eggs when you are in bed.
by Jacqueline
Age 10



Don't miss the Easter Saturday music
concert in aid of Springboard for
Children:

Karin Leitner – flute

Danielle Perrett – harp

Saturday 15th April, 6:30 – 9:00pm

St Michael's Church, Chester Square SW1

(For more info inside, see page 6)



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Read the encouraging story of a boy who has gone a long way since his Springboard lessons at Oliver Goldsmith.

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A tribute to Rebecca Sloane who has been volunteering with us for over 10 years, plus reflections on a year with Springboard in 2005 by Simeon Pang.

Pages 4 Focus on Teaching

Find out what's been happening in the schools across London and in Manchester.

Page 5 Focus on Events

An exciting trip for the children is being planned in May, a report by Jake aged 9 of a trip to the Royal Opera House last term.

Page 6&7 Focus on Fundraising

Fundraising for Springboard has taken off in a big way this year, find out what is happening and decide how you want to be involved in raising money for the work of Springboard.

Page 8 Focus on your Support

An opportunity for us to thank you for all your support, and ways to give financially if you would like to contribute to our work.



The Spring Term can be a quiet phase in the school year when not much happens. Not this year: we celebrated the New Year by welcoming new people and doing some internal reorganisation. Two new fundraisers were timely additions to the 'engine room' of the organisation in order to provide the essential resources to fuel our ongoing growth and development. They have thrown themselves into the work with enthusiasm and commitment which is encouraging for the rest of the team to see. A growing team from time to time has to re-think the way it functions to keep things working well so our management structure was revised to create a finance team under the Chief Operating Officer and an education team led by the Education Director.

Things have not stood still in the hubs either. Our newest school team in Manchester, set up in November, were already having reports in January from the school staff regarding the difference they had seen in the children being taught. The large team in South London was re-organised into two clusters of schools to ensure sufficient support for all. The North London team celebrated the first anniversary of their beginning in Islington.

The whole team has also been very busy with events happening at the end of term: the Gala Dinner at the Goldsmiths' Hall and the musical evening on Easter Saturday which both promise to be wonderful occasions for everyone involved. Dox Productions have finished the short film they have been making about our work. It will premier at the Gala Dinner and we are enormously grateful for their commitment and hard work in bringing that to completion in good time. Looking ahead, planning is well under way for a busy month of May which will include the Hub and Spoke Rally from Peckham to Manchester and a repeat of the Firewalk event which ran so successfully last year.

None of this happens without the dedication and goodwill of a wide range of people bringing their individual contributions to the joint effort. Everyone from the volunteer team working with the individual children, through the training and support team, to the Trustee board have continued to play their crucial, though diverse, roles in maintaining the work of Springboard for Children. Immeasurable thanks go to each of them.

We trust that you will be encouraged by all you read. Your continued interest and giving is greatly appreciated. Thank you and Happy Easter.

Janet Bristow

Education Director, South London Hub Manager

FOCUS on Springboard graduates

In early December we had a visit at Oliver Goldsmith from a very tall, gentle natured, handsome young man, resplendent in his Peckham Academy school uniform. It was hard to equate this vision with the small year 3 child who I took from Mr Smith's class for his first Springboard lesson. For it was none other than Daniel, who had stayed with Springboard until year 6 under the tutelage of myself and Miss J Bristow. His younger brother, Joshua, is with us presently.

"I struggled with pronouncing words and spelling," said Daniel when I asked him what he found difficult all those years ago. "Coming to Springboard made me feel better because it helped me with these difficulties."

Daniel remembers his Springboard lessons being fun (but of course!). He remembers playing card games and guessing games and, he said, "Springboard is excellent because you learn more."

Now Daniel is in Year 10 at the Academy in Peckham and is a very successful student. He still has extra Key Stage 4 support, sometimes this takes the form of small group lessons and he still has some help with his spellings. Daniel is considering working in a Nursery in the future (he used to help out with Oliver Goldsmith nursery at lunch times) because he likes working with little children.

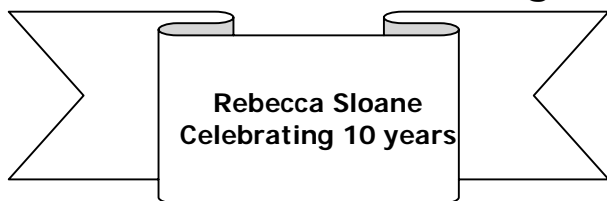
Daniel had come up to Springboard after a chat I had with his mum, who said he was doing very well; that he had lots of certificates and would I like to see them? So the following day Daniel made his journey up the famous Springboard stairs at Oliver Goldsmith with his blue ring binder, full of awards for hundreds of merits, two student of the month awards for excellent behaviour and attendance; a Young Enterprise certificate for his stationery business, Freestyle Productions, and even an award from the Mayor!

But the most charming thing of all was that, tucked right at the back of his file, in a punched pocket was every single Springboard sticker he ever got, lovingly rescued from the fridge door when it was replaced with a new one.

You just can't beat working at Springboard, can you!

Claire Tripp

Focus on volunteering



Volunteering for any organisation involves commitment and the nature of the work of Springboard for Children depends upon this fact to an even greater extent than usual.



At the end of last year, we celebrated the contribution of Rebecca Sloane who has been involved with Springboard for the past 10 years, most of that time in a volunteer capacity! That is an impressive achievement! She started as a volunteer tutor at Oliver Goldsmith School back

in 1995 and undertook some training at the Dyslexia Institute. She then became a volunteer co-ordinator and developed our Junior Programme which is used throughout the organisation. She is now back to volunteering and is currently teaching at Gloucester Primary. She is also a member of the south London hub stakeholder board. Watching Rebecca teach is a joy – she is fantastic with the children and teaching is her first love. Dozens of children have quite literally blossomed under her care – nothing is too much trouble for Rebecca. Her children get hand made resources; she liaises tirelessly with their parents and teachers, arranges little trips and visits during the holidays and has followed some of them right into secondary school. Her level of support of the children in her care goes way beyond the 2 hour a week session.

Not only has she worked directly with the children, she has been an ambassador in so many other ways: from fundraising to recruiting her friends as volunteers, referring us to influential people, mentoring members of staff. She has generously donated a huge variety of books and other resources to our units – indeed it was her material that set us up in the early days. Rebecca once arrived at Springboard in Oliver Goldsmith armed with a sofa she had just spotted in a second hand shop on the way in. Nothing daunted she hops out of the car, buys the sofa, wrestles it into the car and then charms a young gentleman passing by with a fiver to help carry it up 6 flights of stairs to our rooms. Rebecca is a woman of action! We have been incredibly fortunate to have her on our side for

a decade– her contribution to the children, staff and other volunteers has been truly inspirational.

Alison McMurtrie

Focus on our Full Timers

Since the early days of Springboard for Children our work has been blessed by the enthusiasm, dedication and stability of full time volunteers. The following facts give you a flavour of just how significant the role of full time volunteers is at Springboard for Children.

Did you know.....?

- ❖ Our first full time volunteer was in 1994
- ❖ We currently have 9 full time volunteers working with us
- ❖ 50% of our current Teaching Co-ordinators began their career at Springboard as full time volunteers
- ❖ 9 full time volunteers are equivalent to 63 part time volunteers!

I spoke to **Simeon Pang** who was a full time volunteer in 2004/05. I asked him to share his reflections after spending a year with us.....

What are your reflections on your year at Springboard?

"It was a thought provoking year giving me an opportunity to see what it means to help people in a practical way. For me it was about living out my faith and helping children who really needed it. It was an honour to be involved with these young lives at Springboard for Children."



Do you feel you made a difference during your year?

"You just need to look at Janet's records for the evidence that our teaching helps children make significant progress with their learning. One boy that I was teaching in Lark Hall made 18 months progress with in his literacy skills over the 9 months that I worked with him. It was a real satisfying experience to be part of the process that sees underachieving children get to grips with how to read and write."



Springboard for Children is grateful to our super team of full time volunteers for their great commitment and hard work. Thank you guys!

We are currently recruiting for full time volunteers to start the programme in September 2006.

So if you know anyone considering taking a Gap Year then please encourage them to get in touch to find out about our programme.

Sarah Dobson, Volunteer Recruitment Officer

FOCUS on the hubs...

South London

Over the last few years the South London hub has been growing rapidly! We're now teaching in 14 schools, with 56 volunteers, 300 children and 600 lessons per week! So far this school year we've written 600 individual learning plans, used up 14,400 lesson plans and eaten approximately 2688 chocolate biscuits (worked out using a very complicated calculation)! As it's grown everyone has coped very well and adapted to the changing needs. But this year we realised that in order to continue to support all our staff effectively something had to change. So in January, after careful planning, we divided the hub geographically down the middle. Janet continues to manage the schools on the eastern side and I manage those on the west. In terms of the day to day teaching and work with the children the split has very little implication. But it has helped us to support our hard working school coordinators and given Janet more time to look at educational practice and policy.

We still meet together for team meetings and this term had a very useful session with Angela Webb of the National Handwriting Association. We looked at practical ways to help children with handwriting difficulties and came away full of ideas. Our accredited training programme has taken off – currently there are 10 volunteers enrolled and a recent visit from the external moderator was very positive.

Thank you all for your support of our work. Without it we would be unable to reach the 300 children we currently teach.

Julie Milnthorpe

Manchester

Pat is our Teaching Co-ordinator at Victoria Avenue with Joan, Katie, Emma, John, Hina and Sarah our full-time volunteer. Thank you all for your unfaltering patience. The North Manchester unit is currently supporting 16 children on Mondays and Wednesdays in years 2, 4 and 5. We will have our first 'graduate' at the end of this term!

Joyce is the Teaching Co-ordinator at our South Manchester unit, Claremont and we are currently supporting 14 children with the help of Sophie, Megan, Kim and Sarah, to whom I am greatly indebted. These children receive support on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We would like to thank Sarah for helping to recruit volunteers and to Alison for coming up to train us all. Also, a big thank you to our Board of local trustees for their time and commitment. Alan and Janice are now joined by Emma and Elaine as Members and a student volunteer called Nicola helping behind the scenes.

We are now turning our attention to community fundraising initiatives, with Ellie's help from Central Office. We look forward to reporting on the outcome of these events next time!

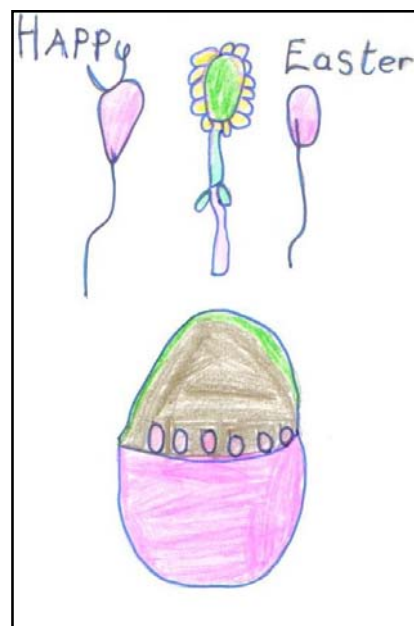
Joyce Gbeleyi

North London

As Janet mentioned in her opening introduction this term brought the celebration of our first year in North London! It has been a very exciting new development for us as a charity and as a teaching team we have really enjoyed our first year in St Mark's Primary School in Upper Holloway. The children there have been a real joy to work with and we've seen all of them make real progress with their literacy skills.

In the coming term I will be continuing to explore the option of launching a new unit in North London and will be working closely with Janet Law to ensure future funding for the hub. I'm also doing a parachute jump in May to raise some money for Springboard's future development so if you'd like to sponsor me, get in touch- better still why not join me!

Julie Milnthorpe



Focus on Events

Milton Abbey

A unique opportunity has arisen for a group of Springboard children from the south London hub. Milton Abbey School in Dorset has offered to host a camping weekend in May for our boys and girls. We have taken our children out for the day, but a whole weekend away is breaking new ground for us all!

A group of 15 children have been selected from our schools to travel to Milton Abbey which is in the middle of magnificent countryside. It could not be further from the hustle and bustle of Peckham High Street! The children will put up tents, enjoy a BBQ, scramble around an assault course, attend a drumming workshop, sing fireside songs, visit the coast and enjoy the breathtaking surroundings.

The facilities of the school are wonderful and the staff and boys have enthusiastically embraced the Springboard cause by fundraising for the trip and running the activities on the weekend.

A group of Milton Abbey students and staff visited Springboard this term. It was a great opportunity for them to see the work we do and meet the very excited children who will be going.

May I take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to the staff and students of Milton Abbey who are working hard at planning an unforgettable experience for our children.

Alison McMurtrie, Training Coordinator

Easter Time

Easter is...

Fun and friends

Eggs and exciting

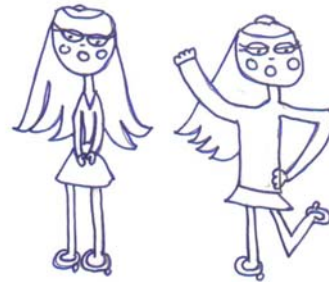
Chocolate and children

Jesus and Jamaica

Sunshine and sharing with friends

By Jamal, aged 10

Easter makes me feel
good and proud.....
and is a great week for eggs
then you can have as much as you want
with your friends and have a great week
and a fantastic week with your mum
Dad and friends.
have a great Easter with family and
friends from Caroline G...



Royal Opera House Trip

We took some Springboard children to a special school's performance of The Nutcracker at the Royal Opera House.

Our day at the ballet

We caught the bus to Covent Garden to watch the Nutcracker. We went to dress up in lots of colourful clothes and ballet shoes. I looked funny and amazing. Lots of people dressed up too. We went back stage. We had a walk around and spoke about the ballet. Then we had lunch and danced with the dancers. We looked down on our friends. We went outside and I saw a woman dressed up as a statue. I put money in her pot and she moved. I did not like one of the statues because he poked me with



his sword. He was nasty. I enjoyed the ballet. It was fantastic. It made me feel happy.
Jake, 9 years old.

FOCUS on Fundraising

Many of you will already have been bombarded with information on the huge range of fundraising events we've got coming up in the near future. Here's a quick run down on some of the biggest and soonest events, as well as a few ways to get involved if you're not so keen on throwing yourself out of a plane...



Parachute Jump

It's the battle of the Springboard supporters as we set up jumps in the North and South to see who can muster up the most support...

London or Manchester?

- o The parachute for supporters around London will take place on:
Sunday 28th May 2006 at the airfield in **Cambridge**.
- o The parachute jump for supporters around Manchester will take place on:
Sunday 11th June at the airfield in **Lancaster**.

So far, we've had loads more enquiries from Manchester than London – so pull your socks up you southerners! And Manchester, don't get complacent; there's still a long way to go to fill all those places! We're looking to make these big events so we can raise loads of money and increase our fundraising profile around the areas we work, so make this your time to do something daring and please get in touch now!!!

Classical Music Concert, Saturday 15th April, London



If high adrenalin physical activities leave you reeling and gasping for breath, don't worry, we've got the perfect remedy. Join us for a night of serenity and calm in St Michael's Church to listen to the beautiful music of internationally renowned flautist Karin

Leitner and Danielle Perrett, harpist for the Queen. The evening promises to be a spectacular event and, as Karin and Danielle are kindly performing at no charge, all the money raised will come straight to Springboard.

Tickets for the concert cost £25. To purchase tickets please fill in the enclosed slip and return to us with your payment, or for further details, please contact us.

Overseas Trips

We've teamed up with a big events company to give our supporters the opportunity to raise money while seeing some of the most amazing sights in the world. To take part in these events you don't need a huge team of people, you don't even need to be super-fit, you just need to have a lot of enthusiasm and be willing to raise a bit of cash for Springboard for Children. We can currently help you trek through Peru (4th-13th October) or Cycle through Vietnam (29th October – 10th November). Get in touch for more information.

Running Events:

A brilliant way of supporting Springboard for Children while sticking to that New Year's Resolution to do more exercise - you all know you made it!



Great Manchester Run, Sunday 21st May

One of Britain's premier 10km runs. We are looking for people to join in this run and help us expand our fundraising efforts in Manchester, to compliment the fantastic work we've been doing up there for the past year. Call us now for an application pack.



British 10k London Run, Sunday 2nd July

This relatively new, but rapidly growing run, spans 10km and takes in some of the most impressive sights London has to offer. Starting at Hyde Park Corner and finishing in Westminster, it will take you past Tower Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral and the London Eye. Interested? We've got 24 guaranteed places so call now and be part of the Springboard team.

We've already got a few of the keen Springboard team taking part in the runs (including myself!), so please come along and join. You don't need to be a professional athlete – trust me, I'm not! – just give it a go!

Firewalk, 11th May 2006, London

Yes, it's back! After the phenomenal success of the 2005 sponsored firewalk, we're once again challenging people to take part in the world's shortest and hottest sponsored walk. On 11th May 2006, you could be one of the many brave souls taking your steps across 30 feet of burning hot coals in Finsbury Square! Last year's event was an amazing success and enjoyed by all who took part.



DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE THIS YEAR!

Other fundraising news...

Students Support Springboard

Barts and London RAG has chosen Springboard for Children as one of its beneficiary charities for this year! The student fundraising organisation will hold its RAG Week this May, when hundreds of students will take to the streets in order to do crazy and inventive things to raise money for charity.

Barts and London RAG is one of the biggest and most successful student fundraising organisations in the country. Since it was established just over ten years ago, it has already raised over £1,000,000 for charity! As one of this year's official RAG charities, Springboard can expect to receive a donation of around £4000!

New Fundraising and Events Group!

A new way to get involved in fundraising...

This is a fantastic opportunity to get more involved with the work of Springboard for Children. We're putting together a group of people to help plan, organise, run and promote our growing range of fundraising events. The group will meet once a month to brainstorm how to make our existing events more successful, how to promote more community fundraising and to come up with ideas for new and exciting events. We're looking to get together a group of people from across all walks of life to bring more scope to our events planning. The commitment will be very flexible, with the expectation to take on any work arising from the monthly meetings at your own convenience.

Get in touch for more details or information.

Community Fundraising

No matter how hard we work, there's always a limit to how much fundraising we in the office can do. But that doesn't mean we can't continue to raise more and more money!

As a supporter of Springboard for Children, you are one of our best resources.

- YOU can inform people about our events who we may never otherwise reach!
- YOU can display our publicity in places that we might never even think of!
- YOU may have access to helpful people, places and resources that you might never have realised.
- YOU could take part in a Springboard for Children fundraising event.
- YOU could even organise and host your own event! It could be something small like a coffee morning with friends, or perhaps you and someone you know would like to take on your own personalised sponsored challenge!

The more people like *you* we have involved in fundraising, the more money we can raise and the more children we can help. So, if you've had a flash of inspiration, or if you've no idea what to do but want to help, please get in touch and we'll help you all the way with whatever you want to do.

**IF YOU CAN HELP WITH OUR FUNDRAISING,
PLEASE CONTACT ELLIE ON:**

Call: 020 7953 7206

Email: fundraising@springboard.org.uk

Visit: www.springboard.org.uk

Springboard is pleased to welcome two new fundraisers to the Springboard team, **Eleanor Murch** and **Janet Law**. Ellie has joined us as our new events fundraiser and Janet will be responsible for trusts and foundations. So here they are to introduce themselves:

I first got involved in fundraising as an unwitting first year student when I signed up to do my first Firewalk. Almost six years on and now I'm the one organising it!

While I've only been with Springboard for two months, I settled in so quickly it feels like I've been here ages – in a good way! It's fantastic to work in a charity with so many enthusiastic people, and to be able to actually visit the schools and see first hand what a difference we make to the children we work with.

Ellie Murch



My name is Janet Law and I began work as the Charities Trusts and Foundations Officer on the 9th January. The SMT have shown amazing faith in my abilities because I have never done this type of work before! Having completed a Masters degree in educational and social research I was looking for that ideal job that encompassed my enthusiasm for children's education, research skills, part time working hours and all within a Christian environment!! And I found it! The first three months have been a steep but exciting learning curve – it's a joy to know that the work you do each day is of such benefit to children.

Janet Law

FOCUS on your support

You can support Springboard in many ways; it is not just about giving money, you can help by giving us your time through volunteering either in schools, in one of our offices or with our fundraising projects. We understand that time is precious and if you are unable to give your time then please support us by giving us a donation.

Donations, no matter how small, make a tremendous difference and we rely on the generosity of caring supporters like you to help us fund our current work and furthermore, allow us to expand this valuable work to many other inner cities throughout the UK.

How can I make a donation to Springboard?

- **Online** – Visit our website www.springboard.org.uk
- **By Post** – send cheques payable to 'Springboard for Children' to the central office address below.
- **Join our 'Friends' Scheme** – for those who wish to support Springboard on a regular basis

giftaid it If you are a UK taxpayer you can give even more to Springboard Children by giving through Gift Aid. Visit our website to download a form, or contact our central office for more details.

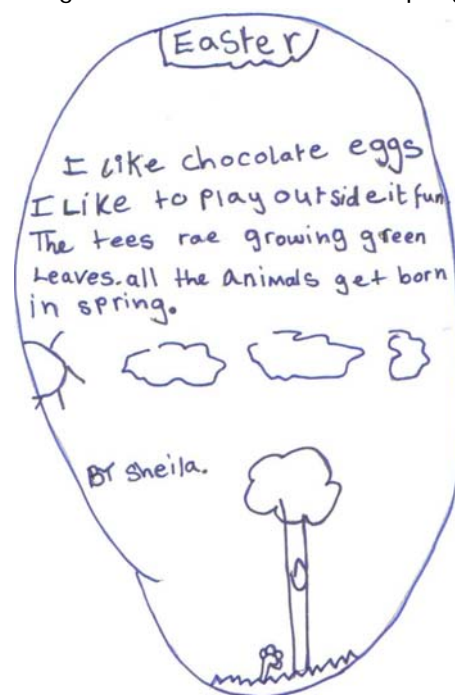
We would like to thank all of our funders and our 'Friends of Springboard'; we extend our thanks to...

The SHINE Trust
The Accenture Foundation
The JJ Charitable Trust
The Mercers' Company
Garfield Weston Foundation
The Foyle Foundation
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Eleanor Hamilton Educational Charitable Trust
CHK Charities Ltd
N.M. Rothschild & Sons Ltd Charities Committee
Laing's Charitable Trust
The Alex Roberts- Miller Foundation
The Girdlers' Company
Sir John Cass's Foundation
The Gosling Foundation
The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund
The Loomba Trust
The Rayne Foundation
The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Enid Blyton Trust For Children.

Also to:

All Saints Church, Peckham
Friends Provident Charitable Foundation
Francis Holland Schools Trust

Thank you for all your support, prayers and encouragement for the work of Springboard for



Children.

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