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## Enterprising Students Save the Day!

The future looked bleak for the thirty seven residents who enjoy using the DeBrus Community Day Centre in Guisborough – that is until three Year 10 students Adam Pearce, Sophie Nash and Sasha Spooner stepped in. The three have recently been taking part in a project called ‘Future Leaders’ Award’ which is an enterprise project organised in conjunction with Redcar Enterprise Team and Coast & Country Housing.

Our students, under the guidance of mentors Kelly Rich from the Redcar Enterprise Team and Julie Felgate from Coast & Country, decided to organise a New Year’s Party for residents in DeBrus Way Community Centre, Guisborough.

Adam, Sophie and Sasha masterminded the highly successful day. Residents enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment, refreshments and each received a food hamper, all of which had been organised by our students.



Mr Allan and members of the school choir entertaining the residents

As a result of the tremendous amount of work that went into organising the event, the three students built up a good relationship with the elderly residents, in particular Mrs Wynn who had previously been the warden. Mrs Wynn invited the students to their afternoon social events to meet the residents. It was during one of these events that they discovered that the elderly were finding it difficult to fund their sessions. The students approached Mr Gavin, Head Teacher, regarding fundraising who suggested the School Charities’ Committee, chaired by Mr Tulloch, may be able to help.

Our resourceful students made an impressive presentation to the committee who were so inspired they were pleased to offer a donation of £400 to enable residents to continue to meet throughout the year. This money was raised by students as part of their non uniform day in the Autumn Term and is part of an ongoing commitment to support worthwhile causes.





The Mayor and Mayoress of Redcar and Cleveland, residents from the DeBrus Centre, Kelly Rich and Kelly Britton, Redcar and Cleveland Enterprise Team with Adam Pearce, Sophie Nash and Sasha Spooner

The cheque was presented to the residents by The Mayor, Brian Briggs and his wife Mayoress of Redcar and Cleveland who also congratulated the young people on their hard work. Adam Pearce, Team Leader said, "We never imagined the impact our project would have when we began. We feel very proud of our achievements."

The students hope that their efforts will not only have benefitted the

community but will also help them to reach the next stage in their bid to be chosen for a place to participate in an Outward Bound week at the Lake District.

This would be the penultimate stage of the Future Leaders Award project. Initially, the project had five main stages. To be considered the students had to submit a detailed application. This was followed by a selection day held at Laurence Jackson School on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Throughout this day students from schools across Redcar and Cleveland had to complete a number of challenges. As a result of this process Adam, Sophie and Sasha were selected to represent Laurence Jackson School in the next stage of the project.

Stage three involved our students in a community based project, which in their case was based on the DeBrus Centre. If our students are judged to be successful, they could be chosen to participate in an Outward Bound week in the Lake District.

The ultimate stage is for one student to be offered an apprenticeship with Coast & Country. Even if one of them isn't selected for the apprenticeship, they are certainly winners in the eyes of the elderly residents of Guisborough. We wish them luck as they deserve to do well.

