

Help us to support you...

Can you help us bridge the gap?

We are appealing to you, the people who benefit most from the existence of Thomley, to consider helping Thomley by offering one-off or ongoing financial support.

Whilst Thomley's **£5** recommended entry donation is considered relatively high by some visitors, others feel it is incredibly good value and cannot believe we request so little. In reality, every child costs us **£38** per visit, meaning that **Thomley needs to find an additional £33 for each child who visits** for a day.

Thomley aims to ensure your continued enjoyment of our beautiful accessible site, our diverse range of safe and creative activities, our clean and fresh environment and our personal staffing approach.... **but we need your help....**

As you can imagine, fundraising in this current climate is not an easy task and we are therefore asking each of you to consider the possibility of helping us to bridge the **£33** gap.

We therefore hope that you may consider doing one of the following:

- Making a regular donation by means of the enclosed **standing order** form or offering an **additional donation** on the day of your visit
- Encouraging your children to raise funds through **sponsored events** (see A-Z of ideas below)
- Involving your local community, e.g. promoting Thomley as **'Charity of the Year'** in your local school, shop, gym, library, church etc.

Currently 570 different families visit Thomley... so just think... **if each family** who uses the centre:

- **set up a standing order for £3 per month** (or more if you are able!), we would raise **£20,520** equivalent to our staff salary shortfall.
- **raises just £100 through as sponsored event**, we would raise **£57,000** to cover our essential rent, overhead and maintenance costs.

Get your kids involved?

Two 12 year old girls raise £700 for Thomley

We would like to tell you about the remarkable efforts made by Abbie Hill and Nicola Briers (both aged 12) who, over a period of 6 months, raised an astounding £700 for Thomley.

Inspired by the enjoyment their disabled brothers get from coming to Thomley, Abbie and Nicola decided to rope their families and friends into all kinds of fundraising antics.

The girls organised 2 cake stalls, a fun day with a raffle and quiz, a sponsored swim and Christmas carols. They then convinced everyone they know to make a donation, including their school (Wood Green School, Witney) who gave an additional £343 to match the funds they raised. In a very professional manner, Abbie and Nicola presented their cheque to Thomley and spoke publically about their achievements. We would like to say a very big thank you to both of them and we hope that their efforts will inspire you or your children to start raising funds too.



A-Z fundraising ideas for the kids - see <http://thomleyactivitycentre.org/support-us/sponsored-events/>

Auction of promises

Baked bean bath

Car wash

Disco

Easter egg hunt

Fancy dress competition

Guess the weight of.....

Hair cut

Indoor games evening

Jewellery making party

Karaoke evening

Look-a-like contest

Mufti day

Nearly new sale

Odd jobs

Painting competition

Quiz evening

Raffles

Sponsored spell

Themed party

Unwanted gifts auction

Valentine's Day party

Wear wellies full of jelly

X-rercise - involve your local gym

Yoyo competition

Zany clothes day

What do we need funds for?

'Unrestricted' funds

If you are considering making a donation, we kindly appeal to you to think about making an '**unrestricted**' donation, giving us the choice to use your donation where it is most urgently needed. We ask this because from our experience, donors prefer to fund children's activities or play equipment, and are less keen to cover the less 'glamorous' core costs of the organisation. In effect, we have funding to run projects and buy new equipment, yet struggle to pay boring but essential bills such as rent, electricity to keep our children warm and upkeep costs of our beautiful site.

Having said this, you may want to know exactly what your money is being used for, and for this reason we have listed some of our priority funding needs below.

Emergency repairs to our eating area



As you will have read in our newsletter, we recently had a flood in our eating area which caused quite a lot of damage. Although this was not our top priority this year, we now have no choice but to **urgently** get this building up and running again.

We are hoping that our insurance will cover the basic repair costs, however as you know, there are many improvements we also need to make (see below). We are therefore hoping that you may be able to help us raise the difference between the like-for-like costs covered by insurance, and our planned improvements. We are not yet 100% sure what the difference will be, but we envisage it will be several thousand pounds. Any contribution to these costs would be gratefully received. See below for our planned improvements

- **Increase space of eating area** – ensure space is flexible for the needs of different sized groups
- **Improve warmth** – incorporate central heating, insulation, double glazing and new doors.
- **Improve accessibility for wheelchairs and prams** – improve doorways, level the flooring provide differing shape, size and height of tables.
- **Improve kitchen and food preparation area** – create a domestic style kitchen with modern appliances.
- **Replace decor and flooring** – bright but homely farmhouse style.
- **Improve storage space** – lockers and clear space for food, personal belongings and prams

Other priority projects

- **£20,000** - Essential staff salary shortfalls
- **£25,000** - Improving accessibility of our toilets and showering facilities
- **£5,000** - Damp-proofing our playrooms and providing more comfortable seating for parents
- **£50,000** (and upwards!) - Developing our teenage provision

If you would like to make a donation...

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by:

- **Standing order** - Make a regular donation by setting up a standing order. Simply complete the enclosed standing order form and post it back to us. We will do the rest...
- **Cheque** - Make a one-off donation on the day of your visit or by posting a cheque, made payable to 'Thomley Activity Centre'.
- **Direct payment** - Make a direct payment through BACS. Please call our Finance and Administration Officer who will talk you through the process.
- **Donating online** – follow the links on our website <http://thomleyactivitycentre.org/support-us/>

For further information or ideas, please contact **Claire** on **01844 338380** or fundraising@thomleyhall.org
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