

5th August 2008

Raising funds at Fun Day for ECHO launch



Sunday afternoon was a fun filled celebration for Eden Housing Association's tenants and residents at the launch of their new residents assembly named ECHO. They decided to formally launch the group at a Fun Day held at Penrith Rugby Club, with all money raised going to Eden House, the Children's Hospice at Carlisle.

Eden Housing Association (EHA) has been working closely with their tenants and residents to set up ECHO - which stands for Eden Communities Homes and Organisations. The idea behind it was to ensure everyone has the opportunity to 'make their voice heard' and to become involved in improving the delivery of services from EHA. ECHO is already working closely with the Association and they have also developed their own identity and created community pages on the EHA website.

The community fun day was chosen to launch ECHO because it encourages participation and communication – something that the group is keen to focus on. The sun shone in the afternoon and there was an excellent turnout for the event which included tenants and residents from Kirkby Thore who travelled there on the old 'Heartbeat' bus.

There were 28 cars at the Car Boot Sale and there were tombola's, quizzes, face painting and giant garden games as well as ice creams and food for sale. But there was also an educational side to the day with a number of charities and organisations on hand with important information. British Gas and Glow Worm boilers gave away free energy efficient light bulbs and water hippo's as well as answering residents questions about the central heating renewal programme being carried out by the EHA property maintenance team.

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Joan Johnstone, Chair of EHA had a very busy afternoon chatting to tenants, residents as well as EHA staff who brought along their children and grandchildren too. She said “it’s wonderful to see so many people here. We expected to see many of our residents and their families but delighted that other local families came to the event too. It gave them chance to see what we do and was a great way for the community to get together; what’s more it helped us raise £827 for Eden House – the Children’s Hospice in Carlisle.

It has certainly been a good way to launch ECHO and I hope it encourages even more tenants and resident to become involved in developing a really strong partnership with the Association.”

Anyone interested in becoming involved with ECHO should contact Heidi Ware, EHA Team Leader for resident involvement on 01768 861 419 or email getinvolved@edenha.org.uk



Picture description:

Front page

Joan Johnstone Chair of EHA enjoying the fun and games with residents

Children enjoying fun and games

Eric Tiffen with his granddaughters Ashley and Olivia

Sarah Bowman and Jenny Everingham EHA Community Development Officers in charge of face painting

Notes to Editor :Last year, Eden Housing Association celebrated its tenth anniversary. We are an established Registered Social Landlord providing over 1500 homes for affordable rental in the Cumbria districts of Eden, rural Carlisle and Allerdale. We provide a range of accommodation and services to meet the needs of young single persons, couples, families, older persons and the homeless, including specialist provision with support.

We are keen to grow and to offer our products to a wider audience in Cumbria with a continuing emphasis on market towns and rural areas, supporting their growth and sustainability.