

Divine Buzz in Partnership with The London Community Foundation



**The London
Community
Foundation**

THAMESMEAD (TM)

Divine Buzz and The London Community Foundation

With the support of the London Community Foundation,
Divine Buzz organised and took the children and their
families to the London Aquarium and London Eye

It was fun, full of excitement & adventure!

About Us

Vision

Our vision is to reduce isolation and loneliness and work toward a cohesive, integrated community with few instances of solitude.

Mission

To empower women, children, and their families through physical exercise, social and educational programmes that promote physical health, mental well-being and personal development.

DIVINE BUZZ & THE LONDON COMMUNITY FUND

INVITE YOU TO

London Eye and London Aquarium

Tuesday 25th October 2022

£10 per person

The London Community Fund is funding the activities and the charge is for the coach.

Meeting point: St. Paul's Church, Bentham Road, SE28 8AS

Meeting Time: 10.45 am

Departure time: 11:00am

Pick up: Approx. 5.00 pm

Call to book on: 07951922324

Please bring a packed lunch

An adventurous and fun day!

The London Community Foundation

THAMESMEAD™



Our ethos

- Supporting the lonely and isolated to meet new people, form friendships and connect to our wider community.
- Selfless attitude, belief in everybody, and creating individual true success story.
- Standing firm, one step at a time, progress before perfection.
- Have fun while acquiring new skills and knowledge
- Working together with others to build better community for all.

London Aquarium

One-day trip to London Eye and London Aquarium during half term break for the children and their families.

Although it was a day trip, preparation started as soon as the grant was secured. It helped to give the children and their families ample time to prepare themselves.

The project was advertised at our after-school programme, on the Divine Buzz website, and on various social media platforms, allowing all residents who were interested to register.

The registration was simple and concise, all forty-nine places were taken within two days of the advertisement, leaving quite a good number of residents disappointed.

We had total of thirty- seven children and twelve adults taking the trip.



London Aquarium

On our way to Westminster, we drove past a few historic buildings such as the Westminster Abbey and St Paul's cathedral which excited the children as some of them had only seen it on TV.

At the Aquarium, the children and their parents were equally excited to see all the marine creatures. For some of them, that was their very first time visiting a place like this. They took pictures of themselves and also the marine creatures.

There was equal excitement to ride the London Eye, however, some parents were not quite sure due to the fear of heights but eventually were convinced and all but one child and one adult decided not to. Like the Aquarium they took pictures and there was fun all over.





At the London Aquarium

Posing for the cameras

The children learned & gained knowledge about different types of marine life, it was fun for them to see many types of fish around them especially under the tunnel.

For most of the parents and children, it was their first time to experience the London Eye and the London Aquarium. It was exciting and enjoyable for them.

At the London Eye

We also visited the London Eye, the children were amazed at the engineering and the design.

As it majestically hangs over the Thames with excellent views. This is a masterpiece!

It was fun, exciting, and breathtaking for the children and their families.



On the London Eye

What an experience



Breathtaking views of the city's key landmarks

Houses of Parliament

Westminster Abbey

The Shard

Thames River

Central London

Big Ben all was in
view



The London Aquarium and London Eye Photo Gallery



What have we learned

The children in our community need exposure to certain sites and places for them to contextualise what they learn in class

The exposure shapes the children's understanding in a way that is much more informative than if they only relied on classroom knowledge

We also discovered that many more families than we anticipated were looking for the opportunity to visit such places.

We had initially planned to travel to London Eye and London Aquarium by bus to North Greenwich Station and then the Thames River Boat to Westminster, however, at the second check of the register, we revisited our risk assessment and decided the best mode of travel was by coach. So we hired a coach and travelled from and back to St Paul's Church Bentham Road in Thamesmead.

We realised that travelling by coach is the most safe and convenient mode of travel



**IT IS ALL ABOUT
SERVING THE
COMMUNITY**

What would you do differently next time

Some of the things that we would do differently are:

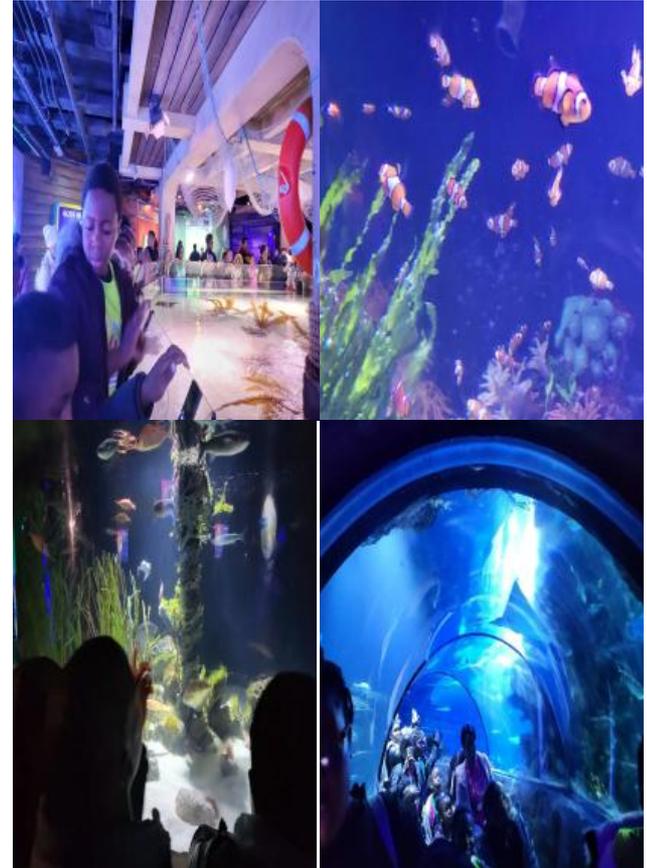
- Plan for contingency funds so that we can accommodate some identified families that would really benefit from such trips but have expressed interest after we reached capacity
- Remind participants of time constraints and sticking to the scheduled times
- Form partnerships with local companies such as coach companies that could extend certain discounts to community groups



Quotes from children & Parents

- * One of the young people said," I have seen London Eye on TV and I can't believe I have actually taken a ride on it. "
- * Another young person was very excited so much at the Aquarium and said, "This is the best half-term I have ever had", thank you for the trip."
- *One parent commented after asking about the entry fee, said, " there is no way I can afford to bring my four children to this place, thank you for bringing us."
- * One of the children asked, "Miss when is the next trip, where are we going next, I'm so excited!"
- * Another parent said, "Thank you for giving me and my family something to look forward to this half term, we would have been stuck at home with nowhere to go because we can't afford it."

All the parents expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the staff and volunteers openly, particularly when they became aware of how much it would have cost them to bring their families.



What the children and families are saying

I enjoyed my half term at the youth club like the London eye and Black history month day. I enjoyed meeting ~~the~~ ^{New} people also the food. It was nice prents coming to watch our performans

It was very nice to bring my daughter to the trip. I enjoyed myself as well as having time with my daughter. The whole trip was well organised. The staff of Divine Buzz was very well comming and under standing. My daughter was as happy as I have ever seen her. As a dad, couldn't be more proud of the work Divine Buzz is doing in our community. Thank you Divine Buzz.

I loved the half term because we got to see the new. We saw sharks and fishes.

~~London~~ London Eye I liked it because we saw big Ben and Buckingham palace and it was delayed for 15 minutes that why I relly loved the trip

I liked it when we went to sea life and the London eye because we got to see jellyfish, downfish, ratsfish, stingray, penguins. What I liked about the London Eye was that I could look down and see the whole of London all the people looked like ants. I also saw boats.

I had promised to take my little girl to the London Eye and London Aquarium but I had not managed it and she is now seven. Seeing the smile on her face and hearing her tell stories to her siblings and friends after the visit, made me so happy. I am so thankful to Divine Buzz for giving us this opportunity.

The difference the project made to the community

The project brought families from different backgrounds together which promotes community integration and cohesion.

It allowed the children and their families to experience the marine world as close as possible which, a good number had never experienced before.

Some of the children were able to see historic buildings that they have only seen on TV which they would otherwise not see and are of significance to their learning.



The difference the project made to the community

It helped some families going away from their normal environment during school breaks, particularly it was very nice to see Dads, getting involved with their children in a community activity.

The funding has enabled us to expose the children to new environments, which has widened their understanding and perspective of life.

As a result of the trip, children and parents have formed friendships in the community.

According to the feedback from parents and children, the trip provided something to look forward to during that school break, and all that gave feedback asked if could be done every school break.



Concluding remarks

Divine Buzz is a community charity that supports and empowers women and children. Our goal is to support each other through fitness sessions, educational and social programmes to come out of isolation and loneliness.

→ Milestones

Divine Buzz has been able to make impactful contributions in the community bringing women and children from different backgrounds together and promoting community cohesion and a sense of belonging.

The funding has enable us to expose the children to new environments and this has widened their understanding of different aspects in their lives

→ Highlight

One of our highlights of the trip was that we were given a few extra minutes on the London Eye when we got to the very top due to a minor technical issue, it was lovely to view London from a 360 degree angle. Very exhilaratingly exciting!!

→ Support

Divine Buzz is thankful for the support that we received from the London Community Foundation, Divine Buzz management, staff, volunteers, and our participants.

→ What's next?

We have been inspired by the number of response, the positive feedback and encouragement we are getting from the participants. We hope to continue enriching the experience of the community and we look forward to more future trips



LET'S DO THIS!

One step at a time, progress before success

Read more at <https://divinebuzz.co.uk/>