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“Inspirational and engaging” – A musical Monday morning...

We all know that Social Networks play an incredible part in society today. A simple Tweet brought about a magical Monday morning for 16 children on a CHICKS respite break as they experienced a session at Plymouth Music Zone.

CHICKS provides free respite breaks to underprivileged children from across the UK, while Plymouth Music Zone provides high quality tailored music workshops for young people, often from challenging backgrounds. This is the first time these two charities have come together and it was a great success.

CHICKS supervisor Louis Brown was really impressed: “We were all surprised by the amazing facilities that are right on our doorstep. From the moment the children arrived on camp we started writing lyrics and getting in the musical mood! There was a really nice creative energy during the session, it was inspirational and engaging and a great musical Monday. The moment we arrived everyone was given instruments and every child got involved. The final song was brilliant and all of the children were so proud of their achievements. We were still playing rhythm and musical games right until the children went home this morning!”

One of the children on camp, Jacob, decided to write a rap which he performed for the group. He was so proud! Monique also wrote a song with CHICKS supervisor Louis. The children couldn’t stop talking about how fantastic the session was.

Development Director at Plymouth Music Zone, Debbie Geraghty, says she was amazed the children managed to achieve so much in such a short space of time: “It’s quite an extraordinary experience to witness a group of children who hardly know each other come together for a few short hours and create an amazing piece of music about things they share in common. It’s so important for children to be able to switch off and lose themselves in something creative and go away knowing that anything is possible. We can’t wait to see

many more children from CHICKS come here to Plymouth Music Zone and do the same. It's wonderful to even be a small part of their much deserved time away."

For photos, lyrics and more check out our website: www.chicks.org.uk. The full song will be available as soon as possible, but here's a sneak lyrical preview:

"L is for life, cos I love to live it.

I is for intelligence giving good vibes and spirits".

At CHICKS we want every child to return home with lasting, happy childhood memories, knowing that people care. All of the children on Paso Doble camp will remember their break forever, especially since in their Memory Bags this week they have a special CD, so they can listen to their track whenever they want. We would like to say a huge thank you to Plymouth Music Zone for making this camp extra special!

ENDS

30/08/2011

CHICKS Notes for Editors:

1, CHICKS was founded in 1992. Our aim is to provide disadvantaged children from across the UK with a free respite break.

2, In 2011 we want to give 1,200 disadvantaged children a much needed break.

3, We have two retreats in the South West and our breaks run from March to December.

4, The children CHICKS care for come from a variety of backgrounds. Many have been abused, live in poverty, or have been neglected. Others live in care or are themselves young carers, often bearing the extraordinary responsibility of caring for disabled or terminally ill relatives. What they have in common is the desperate need to create some positive childhood memories, to be listened to, and to have the kind of fun that all children deserve.

5, In October 2011 CHICKS hope to celebrate taking their 9000th child on camp since they began in 1992 - a landmark they can only reach with support. The charity receives no government funding and relies solely on the generosity of individuals, organizations, community groups, trusts and foundations.

6, At CHICKS children can run free and be completely safe. Every child gets the total attention of CHICKS fully trained supervisors, and are made to feel cared for and valued.

* We request that journalists include the website in all reporting www.chicks.org.uk

* We request that journalists refer to CHICKS breaks as **respite breaks** and not holidays

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Registered Charity in England and Wales (1080953) and in Scotland (SCO40536)

Plymouth Music Zone – Notes for Editor

Plymouth Music Zone (PMZ) is an award winning community music organisation that provides high quality tailored music workshops for young people and training for adults. PMZ works with some of the most disadvantaged people in Plymouth, reaching nearly 1000 children and young people every week through the delivery of up to 70 music activities across the city and at our bespoke education centre located in Devonport. 95% of our music provision targets children and young people defined as being 'at risk' with more than a third of that delivery involving children and young people with disabilities.

As a charity, we work with over 100 partner organisations annually using music as a tool to develop emotional wellbeing and the personal and social skills of those participants identified as being most in need. We employ highly skilled Music Leaders who deliver a diverse range of interactive music-making workshops that engage young people in their own musical and social development. We put young people at the heart of what we do and our slogan 'music making a difference' describes a passionate mission that focuses on transforming lives through music. PMZ has won awards recognising the innovative nature of its work and in our last 12 years, Independent Evaluations have provided powerful evidence of the deep impact of what we do in developing and improving a broad range of areas such as self-confidence/self-esteem, self-expression, communication and interpersonal skills.

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Charity No. 1100878