



M&S Spend Time at Bayswater Families Centre

Time for Paddington is Paddington Waterside Partnership's Corporate Community Involvement programme. Established in 2004, the programme connects companies to charities and communities by brokering volunteering, skills, fundraising and donations.

Paddington Waterside Partnership introduced Time for Paddington to enable companies to build fruitful and lasting relationships with the local community. Time for Paddington assists companies by matching their core values with the needs of the community sector.

Two Teams Make a Difference & Create Smiles

A team from M&S spent a whole day weeding and clearing up the garden at Bayswater Families Centre. They repainted the fences and turned an old play hut into a beautiful dolls house. They made the garden a wonderful playground for the children and painted the picnic table so that the parents could sit comfortably and watch their children play. To make it extra special, the team also fundraised to buy a small wooden box for growing vegetables and plants. It was a fantastic achievement and all done in one day.

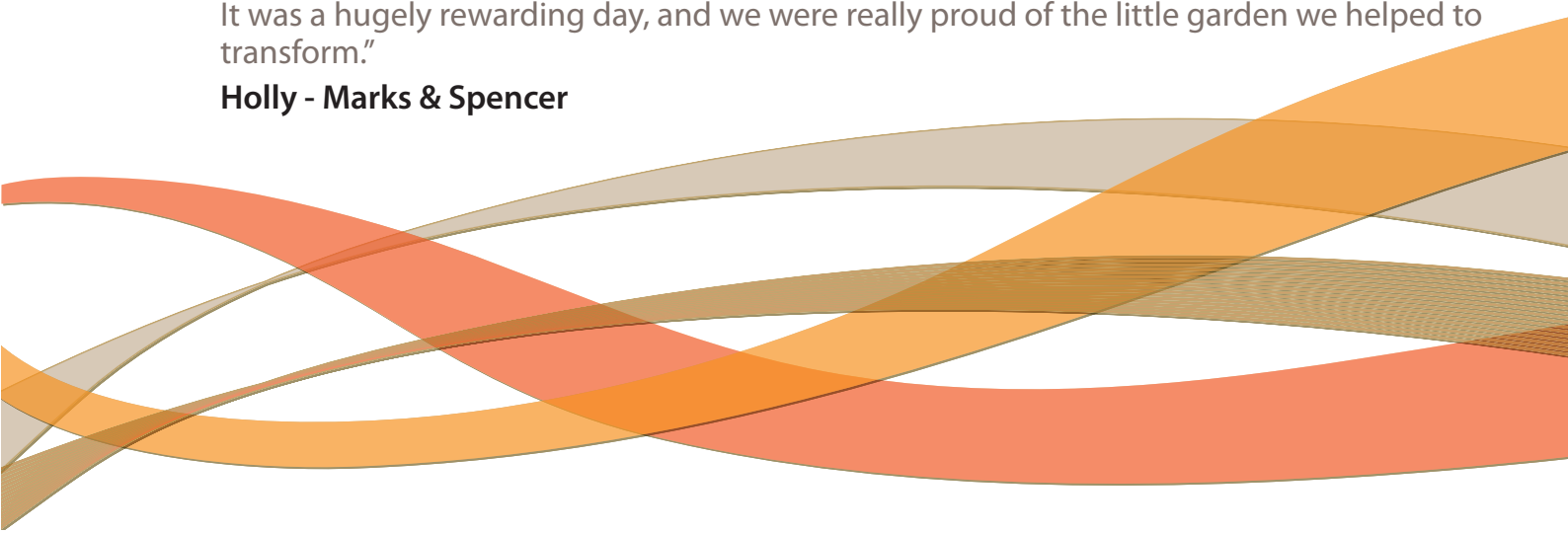
Another team fundraised to collect £1,000 and took 20 people; staff, children and parents to London Zoo for a day. They provided lunch boxes and little gifts for the staff and the children. It was a day to remember for all.

"We were very fortunate to have such a fantastic garden makeover. We are all very grateful for the time and effort put in to make our garden lovely and play area much more child-friendly. The day trip that took place soon afterwards was unforgettable. The families that we work with could never have afforded a day out like this and it means so much to them in terms of experience and education and even more importantly, giving them a day of happiness and a bit of magic which they will always remember."

Shelagh - Action for Children, Bayswater Families Centre

"We all thoroughly enjoyed our volunteer day at the Bayswater families centre. It was a great opportunity to work as a team, and to enjoy a completely different kind of challenge. It was a hugely rewarding day, and we were really proud of the little garden we helped to transform."

Holly - Marks & Spencer



M&S in the Community

M&S is one of the UK's leading retailers, with over 21 million people visiting their 700 UK stores each week. They employ over 76,000 people in the UK and abroad.

With its UK Head Office based in Paddington, M&S regularly fundraises for local charities and community organisations. M&S frequently supports St Mary's Hospital, located opposite the retailer's offices, most recently raising £125,000 for the hospital as part of its 125th anniversary celebrations.

In 2007 M&S launched its eco-ethical plan: 'Plan A', committing to change 100 things over five years. In March 2010, it expanded Plan A setting out a further 80 commitments to help it become the world's most sustainable major retailer by 2015. Fair Partner is a major strand of the M&S Plan A vision and it is committed to supporting local communities through fundraising and employee volunteering.



Action for Children - Bayswater Families Centre

North Westminster has a high level of social deprivation with many families either homeless or living in temporary accommodation. Bayswater Families Centre (BFC) offers a holistic range of services to homeless families including many children under 12 years of age.

BFC also provides some creche and learning facilities, advice and counselling services and arranges much-needed opportunities for children and families to have fun together.

Their work is underpinned by a commitment to work across agencies and develop co-ordinated approaches to promote children's well-being and address complex family needs.

