

Cambridgeshire Region – St Neots, Huntingdon, Papworth & Houghton Clubs

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHARITY CHRISTMAS DISCO

Article for website
By Master Steven Treadaway

On Saturday 27th November 2010 we held a charity Christmas disco for my students, their families and friends.

This disco was organised as a fun social for us to meet and socialise outside normal training but also to raise money for a worthy local charity. This year we donated all proceeds to the Children's ward at our local hospital, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. This was the same charity that we donated to back in 2007/2008.

The charity is called Dream Drops and is part of Huntingdonshire's Children's Charity. Dream drops are a Cambridgeshire Primary Care trust charity which holds and manages funds donated to children's health services in our region. The Dream drops appeal aims to raise money to make a real difference to children and their families who use hospital or specialist children's health facilities in Huntingdonshire. Money raised will support the extras that are not covered by public funds but which make needing to use health services more tolerable for children and their families.

We provided a disco, buffet, raffle and also a children's entertainer that entertained the young students for an hour.

To raise money we sold tickets for the event and held a charity raffle on the evening. Raffle prizes were all donated by my students and their families. When I first started organising this years Christmas party back in September, I wrote to various local companies asking for any raffle prize donations. This did not prove successful; probably due to the current financial climate and all business seem to be feeling the financial strain. Instead I had to ask my students if they could contribute to our raffle and donate anything suitable.

I was completely overwhelmed with everyone's generosity. We had a fantastic selection of raffle prizes donated by the students and their immediate families. Some students also purchased and donated prizes especially for this raffle. The top prize was donated by the Creek family which was a £100 digital camera and accessories. The second prize was donated by the White family, which was an Apple IPod. We had numerous other great prizes donated from bottles of wine, spirits, sweets, biscuits, books, toys, games and vouchers.

Raffle tickets were sold to the students and families on the night of the disco. Some students sold raffle tickets to their work colleagues leading up to the event to boost the funds for the chosen charity.

Thankfully all money generated from ticket sales and raffle tickets can go straight to the charity. This year we did not have to take any costs out. The hall hire was paid for by Instructor Mr Philip Rourke's company. The buffet was paid for by Philip Rourke and me. So all money raised could go directly to the dreamdrops charity.

I must take the opportunity to thank the following people:-

- The Creek family for the top prize digital camera donation. Also to John Creek who sold £87 worth of raffle tickets to his work colleagues.
- Nigel White and family for the iPod prize donation
- Mr Philip Rourke who has been helping behind the scenes with the organising of the event and his contribution for the hall hire and towards the buffet.
- Paul Childerley for selling over £50 worth of raffle tickets to friends and family.
- Denise and Alan Stewart for selling over £25 of raffle tickets to family.
- The Hurding family and to Bryn Harvey and my father Mick Treadaway for cash donations.

Also I would like to thank all the other students and families for their raffle donations and purchasing large amounts of raffle tickets.

In total we raised £622 for the Dream Drops Charity.

This is a tremendous amount of money that a family of martial arts clubs have raised here in Cambridgeshire.

I would like to thank all my students and their families. I was completely overwhelmed with everyone's generosity. They have all worked so hard in the preparation for this event and is a great amount to raise for a local charity. We plan to do a cheque presentation at the local hospital in the next couple of weeks (photo to follow).

For more information on Huntingdonshire's Children's Charity and the Dream Drops appeal can be found here.

<http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectory/tabid/306/language/en-US/Default.aspx?ID=1111&Service=Dreamdrops%20-%20Huntingdonshire%20Children%27s%20Charity>

Tang Sou!

Master Steven Treadaway.

