

## The Children's Society - 125 years of standing by children

Did you know?

- \* Children's Society is 125 years old this month
- \* 100,000 children run away each year
- \* In the UK a child of 10 can be locked up in prison
- \* Seven per cent of the UK child population is disabled
- \* 6000 children arrive in the UK unaccompanied every year, alone, frightened and lost.

Jessica's story is sadly all too common: born and raised in the East Midlands, she first ran away at 12 after serious problems at home and at school. Jess slept rough for one night, most other times she slept at friends' places. Then Jess made contact with The Children's Society through the Check Point project in Devon. It helped her to turn her life around. Now aged 17 she is studying Health and Social Care at college. Jess' dream is to become a social worker, to help young people who runaway just like her.

The Children's Society has worked to support the needs of vulnerable children like Jess for 125 years. In 1881 Edward Rudolf founded the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society after two children at his Sunday school were found begging for food. He learned that their father had died, leaving their mother struggling to support seven children under the age of 11.

Since the charity's pioneering start it has supported the children no one else wanted to help, those whose needs were greatest and most overlooked. Over the years it has changed with the times – even changing its name from the Waifs and Strays to The Children's Society. It now works throughout England, carrying on Edward Rudolf's legacy and holding fast to the Christian values of compassion and unconditional support for helpless children.

The Children's Society's main aim is to care for children and young people in need, whether that be material, physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual. Today 60 projects throughout England offer practical support to 50,000 children every year, and campaign to create positive change for thousands more. The work has evolved to include helping children with disabilities, children in trouble with the law, and young refugees.

In its 125th year, The Children's Society is celebrating everything it has achieved in partnership with the Church, and looks forward to a future where all children are valued and supported.

## Bells ring out worldwide for 125 years of The Children's Society

Bells all over the world from the UK to Perth, Australia will ring out between September 1<sup>st</sup> until December 2006 in celebration of the 125th anniversary of The Children's Society. The Children's Society and The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers are promoting sponsored bell ringing to celebrate this special anniversary and invite bellringers around the UK to participate in sponsored ringing by calling The Children's Society on 0845 300 1128 to sign up for the September start.

"The money raised will help The Children's Society's work with and for children to help them deal with life's harshest challenges and face the

