

31 January 2008

## **SECOND BIRTHDAY FOR BABY GOODS PROJECT**

A community project that set out to offer high quality recycled baby goods and has now become a regular meeting place for young Mums, has just celebrated its second birthday.

Island Exchange Project, run by IDCF (Isle of Dogs Community Foundation) and Barkantine SHIP (Social Housing in Partnership), loans unwanted baby clothes, toys and other associated equipment to local families living on tight budgets. Canary Wharf companies have made significant contributions to ensure an ever changing turn round of stock by arranging collections amongst their staff. State Street, Morgan Stanley, Allen & Overy and Credit Suisse are among those who have supported the scheme by donating goods.

The project has now become a focal point for young mothers to meet, check out the latest goods available, pick up health or parenting literature or even seek advice from the local health visitor who turns up for regular sessions.

On hand to join in with the second birthday celebrations, on Tuesday 29 January, were Tower Hamlets mayor, Cllr Ann Jackson and Jess McNicholas from State Street, who turned up with a further supply of clothes, books and equipment.

The Mayor was clearly impressed with what she saw. "This is a sustainable project. It is just the sort of thing that Tower Hamlets does need and it is something that I will be bringing back to the Council for other Local Area Partnerships to take note of."

Helen Kenney, IDCF's project manager responsible for the initiative added: "We owe a vote of thanks to the volunteers who run the project and the Mums, Dads and children who use it because without them, it wouldn't exist. This really is an excellent example of recycling in action"

Cathy, a local Mum of three, was pleased to sing the praises of the project. "My daughter, Beatrice, known as BB, is also two and was born around the time the project opened. Everything she has comes from here. She's been clothed head to toe. We're a single income family and it's been a wonderful help."

Island Exchange Project is open every Tuesday morning 9.30 am -12.30 pm.

