

“WHEN THINGS WERE REALLY GOING ON IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, I’D COME HERE AND THAT’S ALL OUTSIDE, IT’S NOT IN HERE”

Fawziya



An OnSide Youth Zone

Mr AB Sample

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4

City

Postcode

CODE

[Date]

Thousands of children in Barnet live in poverty. Your support will help give them a brighter future.

Dear Mr Sample,

My name is Keith, and I am Chair of Unitas Youth Zone in Barnet. Unitas is the first facility of its kind in North London. **Our aim is to give all young people the best options, opportunities and support to become happy, healthy and successful adults.**

Interrupted education, social deprivation and financial worries are just some of the challenges facing so many of the 8 to 19-year-olds in our area. We want to give them back their hope, their ambitions and their future – and that’s why I’m writing to you today.

Our opening in 2019 gave local young people somewhere great to come to, have fun, make new friendships, and learn essential skills. When we were forced to close in March 2020, staff called members and their caregivers to see how best we could support them. We pivoted to digital provision and invited especially vulnerable members in for 1-to-1 sessions, providing help however we could. Food poverty is a big problem for many, so we established a food bank which, at its height, served 300 people and continues to serve families in need.

The pandemic has hit the younger generation hard. Not only have many lost people close to them but they’ve taken the brunt of disruption to their lives, education and career hopes. Even before COVID-19, 2.6% of Barnet’s school age pupils had additional social, emotional and mental health needs, and almost 17% of 16 to 24-year-olds have symptoms of a common mental disorder. We expect these figures to be much higher following the pandemic.

Unitas Barnet Youth Zone,
76 Montrose Avenue,
Edgware, London, HA8 0DT

020 8075 5888

www.unitasyouthzone.org

Registered Charity Number: 1173239

Donate online at

unitasyouthzone.org/donate



We’re open to all Barnet’s 8 to 19 year-olds, for safety, opportunity and support.

Continued overleaf...

**"I GOT INTO MY
DREAM SCHOOL
BECAUSE OF
COMING HERE."**

Michael



Right now, our young people need to know that we're here with practical and emotional support to help get them through these tough times.

Your kindness today will make a huge impact on someone's life.

Unitas is part of a growing national network of 21st century youth clubs giving young people a safe and inspiring place to go in their leisure time.

Youth Zones are designed to be vibrant, inclusive and meet the needs of their local communities. Our purpose-built Burnt Oak facility is open seven days a week, 365 days a year and offers a wide variety of activities, training and tailored care.

Attendance at Youth Zones has been shown to grow confidence and resilience, increase physical activity, improve essential life skills, facilitate professional development and cultivate respect and tolerance for people from all walks of life.

Ines is one young person whose life has been changed by coming to Unitas. Her experiences show the huge impact that we can have on any young person. I've enclosed her story in her own words for you to read.

By donating today, you will help us continue to open our doors and provide thousands of young people locally with fun and safe activities, training, and mentoring.

Support like yours – alongside investment from local council, companies and trusts – helps to create a strong community with the shared goal of supporting not only this generation, but also Barnet's future.

I sincerely hope that you share our vision for a bright future for all young people and will decide to support Unitas Youth Zone.

Kind regards

Keith

Keith Black
Chair, Unitas Youth Zone



Young people want somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

**URGENT
LOCAL APPEAL**

P.S Children and young people are facing too much deprivation in our community. We mustn't stand by when we can give them opportunities they simply can't find elsewhere. Please support our urgent appeal today.