

● M.E.N and Hilton team up to dish out money raised by charity supporters

Your chance to bid for a share of our £10,000 fund for young people

Beth Abbit

beth.abbit@menmedia.co.uk
@BethAbbit

THE Manchester Evening News and Hilton Manchester Deansgate have teamed up to give away £10,000 in Greater Manchester.

Running from July 24 to August 28, local charities, schools and clubs that help children across Greater Manchester have the opportunity to apply for a share of the money.

The money was raised by big-hearted supporters of the Hilton's DM Thomas Foundation for Young People in Manchester who

are keen to ensure the money benefits the young people of the city.

The giveaway is aimed at helping those organisations who work hard to improve young lives, often with tight resources.

Now in its seventh year, the giveaway has seen more than £211,000 donated to 205 different local organisations.

Outdoor learning, arts and crafts materials, travel costs, sports equipment, specialist and crisis counselling, therapy and

cancer care, refurbishments and resource packs have all be funded, enabling more than 38,543 young people to benefit directly.

Variety - which raises funds for sick, disabled and disadvantaged children - is one of the charities set to benefit from the fund this year.

Ten-year-old Sophie suffers from Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, meaning she is unable to stand or sit and finds it difficult to use her hands.

Despite being dependent on family for daily living the youngster now attends mainstream school four days a week thanks to a special wheelchair funded by Variety.

The wheelchair includes a standing facility and adjustable seat so Sophie can change position.

She said: "I call my chair 'Yo Yo' because it goes up and down. I like standing up when I want to, I can do it by myself. When I ache from sitting down too long I can stand up. I like standing up with my friends when we are cooking at school."

Sophie's parents said:

"We love Sophie's chair. Standing up has become her party piece. People are always astonished that she can control it by herself.

"Medically, she is weight bearing much more and this will help to protect her hips from further surgery; she'll develop stronger bones. It also helps with digestion and breathing.

"Sophie's chair is her independence and what 10-year-old little girl doesn't want that?"

To apply go to dmthomasfoundation.org/manchester-giveaway Terms and conditions apply.



● Emmie Lewis enjoys the free day organised by Gorton Events Committee

GARY LOUTH

Free celebration shows the real spirit of Gorton

AN event celebrating the spirit of Gorton launched this week.

The free community day was organised by the Gorton Events Committee and took place at the Annie Lee playing fields, in Mount Gorton, on Monday.

Those attending could take part in face painting and a bouncy castle was set up in the park for children.

There were also characters from the Peppa Pig cartoon to entertain youngsters during the summer holidays.

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