

Tradesmen Step Up To The Mark For Local Children's Charity



Leicestershire children's charity Steps is getting a well deserved spruce up, thanks to the efforts of a dad who wanted to thank the centre for the way it has helped his son.

Lee Barnes from Shepshed has rallied the troops, persuading a whole host of companies to give time and materials for free. The entire building, which is located on Loughborough road in Shepshed, is being refreshed, repaired and updated where necessary.

Lee and his wife Katie became involved with Steps when they brought their son here as a tiny baby. Henry was born with Down's syndrome and he was part of the Steps family for over four years.

Lee said: "Steps has been such a fantastic support for Henry and an amazing place that brings families together, Steps have really helped Henry in his first few years and is a special place.

"From talking to the staff at Steps I heard there were many tasks around the building which needed fixing, replacing and replenishing. I felt this would be a great opportunity for the Unite Students Estates team to get involved and started planning a charity day where a number of our employees would come to the centre for one day and carry out as many jobs as possible to help."

Steps is a Conductive Education Centre which provides a service for East Midlands children with a range of motor impairments and movement limiting conditions such as cerebral palsy and Down's Syndrome.

Centre Manager, Janet Russell, said: "This would have cost us thousands of pounds – we're delighted with what's happened. It's like a dream come true! It costs £250,000 per year just to keep the centre running and that money needs to be spent directly on the children, rather than the building. We're all so grateful to Lee and Chris, and of course to all the tradesmen who've made this happen. Thank you all so much!"

The project has been managed by Chris James from Unite Students. He said: "As soon as I got involved in this project, I saw first-hand the amazing help and support Steps gives to children and families from around the region. When Lee asked me to help, I didn't give it a second thought –we're all delighted to have got involved and lend a helping hand."

Steps are forever indebted to the following companies for their assistance:

- Unite Students
- CLC Group
- Creation Floors Ltd
- Ashleigh Signs
- Project Interiors
- Defensor Life Safety Systems
- Hebs Group Ltd.



Lee and Chris from Unite Students