

February 2008

## Closure of LOADS

To all members and friends of Loads

It is with great sadness that we have taken the decision to close LOADS charity as from Friday 6th March 2009.

Over the years the charity has provided much help and support to many families in the area and we are proud of our achievements.

Unfortunately circumstances change and the charity has found it increasingly difficult to secure funds and to get people fundraising for us. The economic climate has not helped and we know that many small charities are struggling to keep their heads above water. Even larger charities such as St Elizabeth Hospice have noticed a down turn in their funds.

The charity has always been voluntary, initially supported by mums with Down Syndrome children themselves. As their children have grown older and with various other issues of their own, it was regrettable that we lost this support. Recently the charity has been 'surviving' by input from a committee who all have full time jobs themselves and families, finding it increasingly difficult to put the needed time into the charity.

We would have all loved to see the charity continue, but it is impossible to run on 'thin air' and difficult to get commitment from anyone with busy family and working lives themselves.

It would have been wonderful for us to secure more funding, even employ someone to run the charity, but this has proved impossible. We have now transferred all of the equipment, books, office supplies etc. to various charities as lay down by the Charity Commission.

We hope that you all understand the situation we have been faced with and the tough decision we have had to make to close the charity. It was not a light heartened decision and has taken many months of sole searching to finally come to this decision.

Sharon Hobbs, who has been involved with the charity for many years and past Chairman would like to extend her sadness at the closure of the charity and has asked for her comments to be passed on to members:

*"I have been part of L.O.A.D.S from the beginning in January 2002 and it is with great sadness that I now see the Charity being closed. Looking back over the last seven years there has been a tremendous amount of work achieved by way of awareness, support, creating opportunities and expanding knowledge which has been done not only through the past committee's but the members, the general public, businesses and everyone who has been involved over the years. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has been part of L.O.A.D.S and wish you all well for the future."*

Support is still there from the national Down Syndrome Association and your local GP's can put you in touch with organisations that may be able to help you.

We have had some fun times, helped many families and that is what we hope we can all take away from this.

Good luck to everyone and thank you for any support you may have given us over the years.

Yours sincerely

LOADS Committee