



# Red2Green

**Press release:** 13 July 2009

**Hilton Foundation helps Red2Green  
support people with autism in Cambridgeshire:**

Twenty five young learners with autism in Cambridge will get the chance to gain first-hand practical experience to develop their independent living skills, following the announcement of funding for a pilot project.

“Aspirations in the Community” is a new project developed by Cambridgeshire charity *Red2Green* for young people with autistic spectrum conditions such as Asperger’s Syndrome. It has been supported by Hilton in the Community Foundation, the Hilton hotel chain’s charity, and learners on the project will have the opportunity to try some practical activities at the Doubletree by Hilton Cambridge hotel.

The course, which is due to start this September, will build on classroom based projects already timetabled. It will offer learners the chance to improve their coping strategies so they can more confidently handle the social situations which shape everyday life. Although those living with autism can be highly intelligent they have a different perception of the world and can experience extreme difficulty in dealing with social situations. This can often lead to social isolation and difficulties in work and in the community. This course aims to combat those problems with practical and structured weekly activities running over 30 weeks, supported by a tutor and two teaching assistants.

Samantha Sherratt, the Co-Chief Executive at Red2Green said:

**“*Aspirations in the Community* will make a hugely positive difference to the young people we support. They are reaching the age when they want to build independent lives, and this project will help learners build their own strategies to progress. We will raise their insight, self-esteem,**

**sense of well-being, of belonging, of feeling valued and useful. We would like to say a very huge thank-you to the Hilton in the Community Foundation for helping us make this happen”.**

Asperger’s Syndrome manifests itself differently in each person so the outings will cover a variety of situations to reflect this diversity of need. These will include learning how to confidently use public transport, the post office, personal safety, street awareness and building an independent social life. At the Doubletree by Hilton Cambridge hotel they will learn how to handle a travel situation over several visits, learning how to price accommodation and food, and the etiquette of staying in a hotel.

Greg Crawford, Doubletree by Hilton Cambridge General Manager, is thrilled to be able to support the project. He said:

**“Giving disadvantaged young people the opportunity to learn and to develop their talents is very much at the heart of Hilton in the Community Foundation’s work and we are delighted to be able to support the *Aspirations in the Community* project. We’ll look forward to welcoming the students to the hotel for their activities here and I’ve no doubt that this training will really make a positive difference to these young people’s futures.”**

**-Ends-**

**For further information please contact:**

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**Notes to Editor:**

## **About Hilton in the Community Foundation:**

Hilton in the Community Foundation was founded in 2000 as Hilton Hotels' charity dedicated to supporting young people in need. Focused on disabled children, children in hospitals, hospices and homelessness, grants supporting disadvantaged young people are made in the UK and Ireland, while in the event of international disaster; grants are made to relief organisations at the Trustees' discretion.

In 2008 the Foundation awarded £1.24 million to 294 charitable organisations benefiting over 200,000 young people.

The Foundation's core costs are funded by Hilton Hotels, so every net pound or Euro raised goes directly to good causes. Donations are funded almost entirely through the generous efforts and contributions of Hilton team members, family and friends and with the support of Hilton guests and company suppliers. To find out more please take a look at our website: [www.hilton-foundation.org.uk](http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk)

## **About Red2Green**

Red2Green runs projects across Cambridgeshire providing leisure, educational and work opportunities for over 600 people with a wide range of disabilities and those facing disadvantage, including mental health problems, learning disabilities, physical disabilities and autistic spectrum conditions.