

February 2009

Barry Andrews celebrates World Thinking Day

Barry Andrews, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, visited his local Girl Guides on Sunday to help them celebrate World Thinking Day. This event takes place every year on February 22nd which is the birthday of our founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. Ladybirds, Brownies and Guides from Ballybrack took part in fun activities and introduced Minister Andrews to their special Guiding ceremony. While there, Minister Andrews had a look at the new 'Outreach Pack' developed by the Irish Girl Guides.

The pack has been widely welcomed throughout the youth work sector. This resource will enable the Irish Girl Guides to work towards the aim for our membership to be a true reflection of those living in communities throughout Ireland today. The Scouting Ireland website states "The Irish Girl Guides have just launched their new Outreach Pack ...which is an exciting resource tool to use with your Group and which will enable you to reach out to potential members from minority ethnic communities. The pack is available on www.irishgirlguides.ie"

The Outreach Pack was created and developed to be a practical help by equipping IGG leaders with the information, skills and tools necessary to reach out into their local communities and to share with other youth organisations. "Thank you very much for sending us a copy of your new outreach pack. It's great to see this initiative!" Jyothi Kanics, Separated Children's Officer, Irish Refugee Council

The pack contains useful information on integration for local IGG units and over 50 educational activities which give leaders a fun, interactive, informal way of educating girls of all ages about identity, diversity, respect and interculturalism while also challenging their attitudes to exclusion, prejudice and discrimination. "It's fantastic, it's full of very practical activities, advice and information. It's a terrific resource for integration and inclusion" according to Margaret Corr, a Regional Development Officer with the Irish Girl Guides.