

VINCI UK Foundation awards £7,200 to Canley Community Centre to help drive healthy eating habits

Canley Community Centre in Coventry has received £7,200 from the VINCI UK Foundation for a new kitchen so it can run healthy eating and cooking classes that help local residents eat well on a budget.

Canley Community Centre is a beacon of light in one of the most deprived areas of the UK.

Providing children's and youth activities, as well as facilities for sports, recreation and interest groups, the centre is an important community hub that is used regularly by more than 500 local residents.

As part of its mission to promote health and wellbeing in the community, Canley Community Centre now plans to run healthy eating and cooking classes.

"Poor health and childhood obesity are major problems across the country but particularly in deprived areas such as Canley. The community centre exists to improve the lives of Canley residents and we hope that running healthy cooking classes is one of the ways we can do that," explains Canley Community Centre trustee Tom Hickenbottom.

However, the current kitchen is in dire state of repair with no oven or hob, which is where the VINCI UK Foundation comes in. The £7,200 grant from the VINCI UK Foundation will enable Canley Community Centre to fit out the kitchen with new workspace and appliances suitable for group use.



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“Our building is a significant asset to the local community but the kitchen has always held us back from being able to tackle some of the key health issues in our community. With the financial assistance of the VINCI UK Foundation we are now able to help empower people to make positive healthy changes to the food they eat and subsequently their family’s health,” he continues.

With a proper functioning kitchen, users of the centre will be able to create both hot and cold meals. This will also make the facility more attractive to private hire groups whose fees help fund the community centre’s activities. The refurbishment is due for completion by Easter.

In addition to the financial support, Canley Community Centre will receive practical help from Coventry local and VINCI Energies UK employee Trevor McClay, who is serving as sponsor for the project. McClay brings substantial experience in project management from his role as an account manager at Actemium Automation Nottingham and has already provided contacts at a kitchen supplier and builders, who have offered heavily-discounted quotations.

“I believe it’s very important that people learn to cook fresh food for themselves and their families – and I’m very pleased to have had the chance to be part of something that I hope will improve the lives of people in one of the most deprived areas of the city,” he says.

Both the VINCI UK Foundation and Canley Community Centre would also like to thank Howdens Kitchens for their generous donation towards the cost of the materials and equipment.

More details can be found at www.vinci-uk-foundation.co.uk.

ABOUT VINCI UK Foundation

The original VINCI Foundation was established in France in May 2002. Since then it has supported more than 2,500 charitable projects, each receiving an average grant of £10,000 and the support of up to four employees. The Foundation distributes more than £3.3 million globally to good causes every year.

The VINCI UK Foundation was launched in early 2016 with the specific goal of promoting social cohesion and fighting exclusion and isolation in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, by combining the skills of VINCI staff with financial assistance to be a long term partner for the community.

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