

Press Release
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Housing association helps resident find career



Melin Homes is helping residents achieve their dream careers thanks to its education bursary programme.

Melin's education bursary provides up to £3,000 per year to help residents pursue further education goals and improve their career prospects. One person who has benefited is Suz Crawford from Hillside, Abergavenny.

Thanks to a our education bursary fund and a little self-determination, Suz has landed her dream job – she is now the new Youth and Community Coordinator for Phillipstown Residents' Association. Only a few years ago though, Suz never thought this would be possible.

Back in 2001, Suz started helping out with the Community Development activities that Melin organised on her Hillside estate. She helped arrange sports and arts and crafts activities for the young people, aged between 2 and 20, and found that she really enjoyed taking part. Suz also received lots of positive comments from the youngsters and Melin's Officers about how good she was.

Suz said: "I remember thinking to myself how great it would be to get paid for the work that I was doing with the young people and their communities. I found out that you could study for a Youth and Community work degree but, as I left school

with no qualifications and I knew how expensive degrees were, I didn't think I'd be able to do it."

However, Suz discovered that Melin's education bursary could help her fund a degree and decided to apply for the programme. She was awarded £1,000. Suz said: "I really couldn't believe it when I found out I was successful! Now, four years later, here I am with a brand new job. I'm so grateful to Melin for helping me get to where I am today."

Alan Hughes, one of Melin's Community Development Officers, worked with Suz on many occasions when she helped out with the housing association's community development activities. He said: "I'm so proud of Suz. From the first time I saw her working with the young people I knew she was capable of making a positive difference to their lives and communities. It's great being able to witness the benefits that our education bursary can present to individuals like Suz first-hand."

Melin's education bursary has helped previous recipients pay course fees, buy books and computers, and fund travel expenses to or from universities and colleges. Many of the recipients are returning to education for the first time since leaving school, some of them having left with few or no qualifications. For more information, please contact Melin on 08453 101102.

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Photo caption: Melin resident Suz has a new job thanks to the housing association's education bursary.

For more information contact Communications Officer Laura Maddrell on 01495 745929 or email laura.maddrell@melinhomes.co.uk

Notes to editors:

Melin Homes is a not-for-profit landlord providing quality homes and services across Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk