

Press Release

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KIND HEARTED WORKER GIVES CHILDREN A BOOST

A Birmingham worker has brought smiles to the faces of disadvantaged children by supporting a charity initiative which took them on an adventure holiday of a lifetime.

Sarah Czyrko, a safety performance and environment manager for CrossCountry, volunteered to help take 15 children to a coastal retreat in Devon as part of the rail operator's links with the charity Chicks (Country Holidays for Inner City Kids).

Sarah, 38, from Worcester, accompanied the children on the six day adventure holiday, where they had the chance to try a range of activities including horse riding, face painting, rock climbing, archery and cooking.

Sarah said: "I'd never thought of doing anything like this before, but thanks to CrossCountry's link to the charity I decided to get involved.

"As a mother myself, I feel it's important to give less privileged children opportunities they may not have at home."

The children, aged between 8 and 11, either have disabled or terminally ill relatives, who they have to care for, are victims of abuse or, have grown up in poor inner city areas.

Sarah added: "The best bit for me was seeing the smiles on their faces and the sense of achievement they felt when we helped them to overcome their fears and complete the activities."

CrossCountry offers Chicks affiliated children free rail travel to the retreats in Devon and Cornwall and gives employees the chance to work with the children on the breaks.

CrossCountry's Managing Director Andy Cooper said: "The amazing staff at Chicks do a vast amount of work that really makes a long-term difference to the lives of the children and their families across the UK. We hope our colleagues, like Sarah, continue to take part in voluntary work with Chicks."

ENDS

Issued on behalf of CrossCountry by Citypress. For more information, please call Sarah Shimwell or Mammy Kufuor on 0161 235 0315 or email sarah.shimwell@citypress.co.uk

**Please find notes to Editors, CrossCountry facts and figures on the following page.
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