

## Impact Initiatives

### Press Release



## Malcolm's part of the Family!

After a 7-year period of unemployment and mental health difficulties, a very important change has occurred in Malcolm Gant's life. He has recently taken up a full time job with Family Investments (formerly Family Assurance) in their Customer Services Team.

Over the past 10 months Malcolm has been supported by local charity Impact Initiatives through its Workability project in Brighton and Hove, which helps people with mental health needs and disabilities to get back into education, training and work. Impact has been working in partnership with Family Investments over the past 10 months to help Malcolm build up his confidence, skills and stamina on a work experience programme.

When Malcolm left his previous employment his mental health deteriorated to the point where he wondered if he would ever work again, but with the help of his psychiatrist and other mental health professionals he recovered sufficiently to begin the Impact Workability programme.

Starting with just a few hours a week and gradually building up to a full week's work, Malcolm has shown remarkable powers of recovery and has really taken advantage of the supportive and nurturing environment provided by Family Investments.

Carol Day, Head of Human Resources at Family Investments said, "Family has for the past 10 years had a policy of supporting the local community with its 'Working Together' community investment initiative. This is the first year that we have participated in this project and it has been a rewarding experience for all those involved. Family has gained significantly from the skills Malcolm has brought with him, and we are delighted that he has become a permanent member of our team."

Staff at the Impact Workability service have helped and encouraged Malcolm to cope with the challenges of getting back into full time work and he has found their support invaluable.

"Without Workability I would not be employed". Malcolm said.

Chris Peters, Impact Initiatives' Chief Executive said, "Malcolm has shown that with the right support, an understanding employer and hard work, difficulties can be overcome. We are thrilled about his success and hope that more local employers will get involved with our Workability programmes, joining around fifteen other organisations and companies who already work with us".

To find out how you, or your employer, can become involved in Impact's Workability services, contact us on [info@impact-initiatives.org.uk](mailto:info@impact-initiatives.org.uk), or call 01273 821914.

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About Impact Initiatives:

Founded in 1978, Impact Initiatives (Impact) is a local charity that supports 20 different projects across Sussex, all with different approaches to helping disadvantaged people and communities lead healthy lives, maintain their independence and take advantage of learning opportunities.

Workability is an Impact project that provides equal access to education, training and work opportunities for people with mental health needs and disabilities. Specialist support is tailored to the individual's needs, interests and abilities and support is offered on a one-to-one basis.

To find out more about Impact, please visit [www.impact-initiatives.org.uk](http://www.impact-initiatives.org.uk)  
To donate to Impact online using a credit or debit card, please visit [www.givenow.org](http://www.givenow.org) , search for "Impact Initiatives" and click on our link.

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