



Securing the future for our clients



The best way we can ensure our service can continue is to maintain a healthy financial reserve to cover any temporary shortfalls in funding **and** to continue to apply for funds from those organisations that will support the work we do. Over the past few years we have succeeded with the first part of the plan and have created a reserve fund that could keep the Basement service operational for at least 6 months if all funding ceased. This is sensible financial management as funders are reluctant to put money into charities that are on the brink of bankruptcy. Due to the ending of two of our largest grants recently we have been dipping into those savings to ensure continuity of service. However **we are delighted to announce that the National Lottery Community Fund have agreed to a continuation in their grant funding for another 3 years for us.** This will be directed towards our Drop In service which is also part funded by Bromsgrove District Council.



...and more good news...

Five years ago we led a Consortium to bid for funds for Floating Support (essentially supporting young people in their first tenancies) from Worcestershire County Council for the whole of the county, which we won. We looked after the Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest areas whilst Redditch Nightstop covered Redditch and Rooftop looked after the 3 southern Worcestershire districts (Wychavon, Malvern and Worcester City). That contract expires at the end of January and although there will be some changes to the way the service is delivered in the south of the county **we are delighted to announce that we have been chosen to continue to provide those services for another 3 years.** This means that we can continue to provide the service to the clients we currently support around the county. More details of the changes will emerge later.

Just before Christmas our clients were treated to Christmas hampers stuffed with treats and presents. This was made possible by the generous donations from families, individuals, churches, and businesses in the area - so a massive **THANK YOU** to all who gave so generously; too many to list individually but much appreciated. Also just before Christmas we ran a Christmas Advent Calendar workshop.



Left: Jenny & Stacey from AFH Wealth Management. Right Kimberley & Hayley from Hinton Group with some of the food donations.

Ellie with the Advent Calendar she made.



Keep informed and join the fun!





On a miserable wet November night 3 members of staff, Sarah, Barb and Kelly, (right) slept out to raise money for the Project. After layering up with long-johns and countless jumpers, they lit a fire and sheltered under a gazebo (kindly erected by Andy from Parkes Hairdressers) in the garden of the Project.



Fundraiser Kelly commented: *“It was an eye-opener, literally, and perhaps should have been called a ‘Wake Out’ rather than Sleep Out, as we now understand why homeless people sleep during the day - sleeping on the street at night is impossible. So much noise - people shouting as they left pubs and clubs, slamming taxi doors, getting food from the takeaway – and then the fear - would anyone jump the gate to where we were trying to sleep, next to a pub car park? This was a real insight, but just in a small town - what would it be like on the street in a city? Terrifying is the answer, as well as wet, cold, and mentally and physically exhausting. Thanks to everyone who helped us raise £693, more than double our target.”*

We just can't stop saying "Thank You"!



How can we thank all who continue to support us enough, other than by continuing to use the money you raise for us or donate to us to directly support those young people who need our help? Over the past 3 months Bromsgrove, Lickey End and Catshill Methodist Churches, the Rotary club, Cupitts, Rose from Bromsgrove Field Hire, Redditch Masonic Charity, NCS, Bromsgrove Belles WI, Bromsgrove United Charities, Oulsnam Estate agents, Happy Crafters, Brownfield Solutions Ltd and NSC Electrical contractors, together with Moyola Charity and Charities Trust have given us a whopping £4,464. **WOW! THANK YOU!** And also a very big thank you to Tim and his assistant Jay at WE CLEAN for kindly giving up their time to clean our carpets prior to our Royal visit - and at no charge. Also to Morrison's staff and customers who supported our bucket collection there to a total of £356.

NIGHTSTOP

Working with Redditch Nightstop

We are now working with Redditch Nightstop, who organise overnight accommodation for young people who would otherwise sleep rough, giving more time to find a more permanent solution, to try and recruit hosts in the Bromsgrove and surrounding area. After a successful recruitment evening at The Basement a new host in Alvechurch was recruited enabling more support for a young person on the run up to Christmas.



We would like to wish all our supporters, volunteers, clients and anyone else who does anything to help us help others, a VERY HAPPY (even if slightly belated) New Year! Ours has started wonderfully as we have just heard we have been successful in a bid for a grant from Garfield Weston. Thank you Garfield Weston.

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