Newsletter

Winter 2021/22

"providing targeted support to improve the lives of homeless people"

For most people Christmas is special, a time for celebrations, family, fun and reunions. But this time of year can be difficult for rough sleepers and homeless people, when the weather can be bleak and cold. At least at Christmas we can help make things a bit brighter for them.

Every year Helping Herts Homeless gives a Christmas gift to each of our residents at the Sanctuary, and to all the clients at our partner organisations. This is normally in the form of a shopping or cinema voucher so that everyone can get something of their own choosing. Last year we provided vouchers of £10 each to over 400 people.

Your support could help us do the same this coming Christmas.

thank you

SANCTUARY BUILDING

We are pleased to announce that **Rushbrook and Rathbone Ltd** have agreed to undertake a property management role for the charity in relation to the North Herts Sanctuary.

Our hostel is an old building which needs constant monitoring and maintenance. So we welcome the professional eye that R&R can provide to maintain the necessary standards to give our residents and the staff an improved experience.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

Our **AGM** will take place In January next year.
On: Sunday 23 January 2022
Time: 3.00pm
Further details will be posted on our website in the new year.

HELPING THE HOMELESS...

Your generous monetary donations have enabled us to distribute funds of nearly £19,000 to support various projects and new ventures at like minded organisations, working to alleviate homelessness and its causes, including funding for:

- Shopping vouchers for residents at the Sanctuary hostel to help them start a new life. Darren, one of the residents used them to buy paint to decorate his new flat.
- Clothes, toiletries, reusable face masks and wellbeing packs for the YMCA in Welwyn.
- Counselling support services for Herts Young Homeless.
- Resolve's new ReStart shared house project in Welwyn/Hatfield, where demand for the homeless accommodation far outstrips local provision.

In addition, your in-kind gifts have been welcomed by lots of our partners over the last few months – see the hostels 'wish list' on our website. We continue to raise money for those in hostels or emergency temporary accommodation, which we then distribute to local charities.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

We held our **Annual Quiz** in October. Thanks to Jono Hutt and Adam Astill for writing and delivering it. We raised an amazing £1,500! This will be used to offer £10 vouchers to residents at the Sanctuary and clients of Herts Young Homeless, Resolve North Herts, YMCA Welwyn and other partners.

In February we provided click and collect **'Tea for Two' boxes.** Each box contained a selection of savoury pastries, scones with clotted cream and jam and sweet treats, raising £822.

Common People, the 90's Indie Night, in September was another success. Thank you so much to organisers Jon and Edmund at ECJ Promotions for their generous donation of £400 from the proceeds.

JOIN OUR TEAM

We have recently welcomed two new board members - Zoe Sanders and Shelley Hugill.

We are still looking for volunteers to join our team.

Please get in touch if you are interested, particularly if you have commercial, IT or transport skills - **info@helpinghertshomeless.org.uk**

WILLMOTT DIXON

We have received fantastic support from Willmott Dixon, the leading construction services company based locally. Their volunteers have helped us improve and update our IT infrastructure, including website, phone and email systems allowing us to communicate more effectively.

Thank you!

COMING UP...

12 December - Choir collection.
The Hitchin Allstars Choir will be busking for us near the war memorial outside St Mary's church.

11 & 12 December - Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival.
Our tree 'Homelessness - just for the record' - will be on display. Please come along and vote for us.

FOLLOW US

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'Helping Herts Homeless' is the working name of North Herts Sanctuary | registered Charity Number 1071610 | Company Number 3471965
Registered office: c/o HW Associates, Portmill House, Hitchin SG5 1DJ