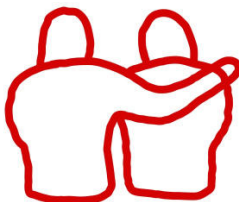


**NORTH EAST**  
**HELP LINK**  
Showing God's Love In Action



[www.nehl-trust.org.uk](http://www.nehl-trust.org.uk)

Charity No : 1100971

**Newsletter**

Spring 2008

With the arrival of British Summertime and Winter almost gone, you would be right in hoping that the next few months will be a little easier for those sleeping on park benches or derelict garages.

It was with these most unfortunate in mind that a recent United Service held in Ryhope Pentecostal Church, donated the offering to buy sleeping bags. With some wise shopping around we have managed to buy 28 so far, which I'm sure will be gratefully received.

The work of the Help Link is discussed at regular meetings with the Trustees and then with our employees Brian and John.



Over the past 12 months or so Brian and John have been encouraging regular clients to attend the church which they attend, as well as giving practical help in re-uniting them with family and raising their self esteem. A recent report from Brian read. " It was time for our church men's night out at

Durham, this time all the men were going out for a meal so I thought this would be a great opportunity to take the guys from Middlesbrough out for a treat and see how they behaved. I knew it would be an expensive night but I booked 12 places in faith that we could afford it. Ten minutes after



booking the guys in, I got a phone call from a local business man who had been jogging past the bus. He said he wanted to give some money to take the guys on a day trip. I mentioned the meal and he thought it was a great idea and will send us the cheque to cover the cost. How Great is Our God! It was a great night and really appreciated what we had been able to do for them. It was the first time old Mark had been out of Middlesbrough in 32 years never mind out for a meal.". A few other reports which Brian has passed to me in the past few months:-

- Eight young people from Woodham Church went to Newcastle to help, they talked to clients as well as giving out sandwiches.

- Wilf, who was sleeping in the park, went home to York.
- Newcastle is extremely busy now, and Brian has spoken to a local Pastor about encouraging them to attend church.
- Dave, a client from Middlesbrough 2 years ago, stopped to say hello, and tell us he now has a job and a mortgage.
- Vicky, a 23 year old heroin addict from Middlesbrough, had her house set on fire and her two cats killed because she owed drug money. She is now homeless again.
- In Middlesbrough we met James, who was sleeping rough after falling out with his wife. We fed him and sent him home to Hartlepool.
- Steve, in Newcastle, is out of prison again and sleeping rough. We got him a sleeping bag and he found somewhere safe to get his head down for the night. None of the hostels would take him because of his aggression due to alcohol.

### **Fund Raising.**

It has been an extremely good start to 2008 due to hard work and generosity by staff and management at Sainsbury's of Washington and Barclay's Bank at Doxford International.

Staff from both companies have visited Newcastle on a Sunday Night and have been impressed with the work of The Help Link.

Sainsbury's of Washington have been supporting us for some time now, and we were allowed another "Bag Packing Day" which raised around £850.00. We are so grateful for the donations of money, food and clothing which we have received from this store. It has made such a difference to those who need it most.

Our sincere thanks go also to Barclay's Call Centre at Doxford International, where Chris Parry Charles and Gareth have been instrumental in Fundraising activities. All the staff have donated generously with money, clothes and blankets, and together with donations from the Bank over £2,000.00 has been received to date. Thanks go to Charles who accompanied Carl Heron on a donated shopping spree for some much needed items for the Help Link kitchens.

## **Contact Details**

To donate tinned food, clothing, or blankets, contact Carl Heron  
(Executive Officer)

☎ (0191) 5368637 to arrange collection

To make a donation of money, contact Eric Southwick  
(Treasurer)

☎ (0191) 5812233

📞 (0191) 5813999

To let us know of any fundraising events etc, please contact  
Jean Cansfield (Secretary)

☎ 07788 983746

## **Fund-Raising Activities**

*(Contact Jean Cansfield for further information on any item)*

- Anne Chisholm will attempt to produce watercolour paintings of buildings, landscapes, flowers (NO people or animals!) from photographs or pictures.
- Pauline Blyth is willing to try to sell unwanted items on e-Bay.
- Hand knitted fashion scarves are available.
- Lawn cutting (Sunderland Area)  
Please contact George Carlyon  
☎ (0191) 5211217