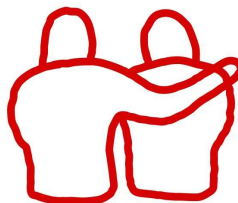


NORTH EAST
HELP LINK
Showing God's Love In Action



Newsletter Spring 2012

www.nehl-trust.org.uk
Charity No : 1100971

Summer nights are on the way and hopefully the ever growing numbers who live on the streets, whether by choice or by force of circumstances will find the warmer nights some comfort.


Reports from our kitchens tell us that a number of our clients who have been clear from alcohol and drugs for a while have returned to their old ways, while others have sorted themselves out and have found accommodation. Sadly, however there are those who are reluctant to accept help.

- The reports from Newcastle kitchen tells us of a man named Erroll who was doing well and living in Elliot House, but on New Years Eve someone attacked him and when he retaliated was arrested The report said "Errol used to be a college lecturer in English History but alcohol led to his downfall. He is fed up of having his sleeping bags and goods stolen while on the streets and lives in fear of attack every night he lies down. In one way he is hoping they will send him to jail as he will be looked after there. Errol is one of our elderly gentlemen and throughout his years on the streets has never had a social worker to help him"
- Three weeks later "Errol was back at the kitchen but was in a poor way. He keeps having his bedding stolen and was freezing. We were able to give him a blanket. Jim (one of our supporters) is trying to get him sorted out with Betel but on speaking to Errol he didn't seem too sure. He had been involved in another of their projects down the country and had been kicked out for smoking. He doesn't mind giving up the alcohol but doesn't think he can quit the cigarettes. Errol is only 61. Contact will be made with Age UK to find out if they have any ideas as to how or where he can be found shelter".

A few items from Middlesbrough over five weeks.

- One of the girls has just got a flat but had no food. We helped her with a bag of essentials.
- Kenna is looking really poorly due to years of heavy drinking and drugs.
- More sleeping bags were given out. Around 20 people sleeping rough in freezing conditions.
- A very busy kitchen in very cold conditions. The clients found the van a welcome shelter and were happy to make room for one another in a friendly atmosphere.

To let us know of any fundraising events etc, please contact Jean Cansfield (Secretary) with details of date, time and venue.

 07788 983746

- We had the tragic news that Sharon, 28 was found dead in her bed sit from a drug overdose.
- An old guy told us he has been in ten different jails and compared the food in all of them.
- Items from Darlington over a similar period.
- A lady came with apple crumble to serve. This was very well received by the clients.
- Regular client Dave had been beaten up by a group of young guys. Sadly this is a common danger on the streets at the moment.
- Chalkie a regular client was poorly at the kitchen so we took him back to his bed sit.
- Two new guys came to the kitchen. They are on the streets and have come from York.
- Danny a former client visited to say that he is doing well and has got his own place. This was great to hear.
- A new guy came to the kitchen. He is homeless and is sleeping in his van.

Stockton reports over a five week period.

- Police visited to talk to one of our clients about a street robbery, He was helpful to them.
- There was a general good mood tonight. Everyone got on well and there was no trouble.
- One lady client was scared by a guy so we walked her to a place where she felt safe.
- John is back on the streets again and is drinking heavily.
- A very drunk woman caused problems by spilling food over everyone around her. This was upsetting to the regular and well behaved clients.
- A couple were trying to sell hair straighteners in order to raise money for drugs.
- Dean was very happy to have got a flat and to be off the streets.
- The guy who fell off his bicycle a few weeks ago and hurt

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.
- Lawn cutting (Sunderland Area)
Please contact George Carlyon
(0191) 5211217

himself, is having problems healing because of his drug habit.

At North East Help Link we continue to try to improve the service we provide, and to help the homeless and those with addictions to a better way of life. In order to achieve this with our limited resources it is vital that we use the services which are provided by other agencies/organisations. One such organisation which was mentioned in the report from our Newcastle kitchen is Betel House. We recently received an invitation to attend one of their Open Days.

Betel is a Worldwide organisation which has helped over 100,000 homeless and socially disadvantaged people with addiction problems. Betel's faith-based method has proven itself in the radical transformation of thousands of lives. Their objective is to see lives changed physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, believing that no-one is beyond hope or lacks the capacity to change.

In the UK, Betel has centres in Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Watford, Manchester, Coventry and Dublin. Partnering with The Vardy Foundation in 2011, Betel House in Hexham became the first Betel Centre in the North East.

A number of our Trustees took advantage of this invitation and were extremely impressed by the facilities and staff who run the centre. Many who gave testimonies and help run the Centre are former addicts who attended the Centres in the past few years.

Fundraising.

A fundraising coffee morning and jumble sale was held at Ryhope IM Church and raised £150.00 to buy goods for the kitchen.

The Walk for Walter's work will take place on 23rd June 2012 at Hetton-le-Hole IM Church.

The volunteers who attend the Darlington Kitchen are fundraising to help run the vehicle.

Our grateful thanks once again to all for the donations of food, money and clothing which we have received

Contact Details

To donate tinned food, clothing, or blankets, contact Carl Heron (Chairman)
☎ (0191) 5368637 to arrange collection

To make a donation of money, contact Moira Cansfield (Treasurer)
☎ 07733365607

✉ 51 The Avenue,
Seaham,
Co. Durham
SR7 8NS