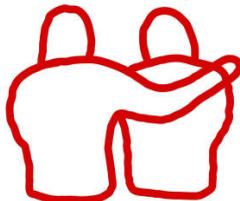


NORTH EAST
HELP LINK

Showing God's Love In Action



www.nehl-trust.org.uk

Charity No : 1100971

Newsletter

Winter 2009

2009 started and ended with the same bad weather conditions for those with the misfortune of living on the streets. We are thankful, however, that we have been able to provide an increased element of warmth and comfort since the introduction of the new vehicle. The problem remains acute in the location where we are not presently able to use the vehicle.

Whilst one of the main aims of North East Help Link Trust is to provide hot meals for those who would otherwise go without, we are conscious that those who attend may also have health problems. A new venture was piloted at a Sunday evening Newcastle kitchen in December when a dentist, who is one of our supporters, visited the kitchen to provide advice and to perform any necessary immediate treatment for clients with dental problems. Four clients took advantage of this generous offer and the work was carried out in the NEHL vehicle: another good use for this excellent facility.

In Newcastle the numbers attending the Sunday kitchen average 40 individuals and those on Thursday afternoons average 36. In Middlesbrough the average is 33, in Stockton 23 and in Darlington 16. During this year we have managed to help some clients find accommodation, some to explore work possibilities and, for some who were away from home and in great need, have given assistance in their return home.

It was reported in the last newsletter on our contact with the Fairbridge Organisation which works to help young people to re-establish good life patterns. Recently they have been operating a "Grubs Up" project in which they grow produce which is then given to



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

☎ 07788 983746

organisations, like ourselves, who feed the homeless and disadvantaged. On a very cold December day, a team of three from Fairbridge cooked the food in our preparation kitchen at Hope House and served it at the Middlesbrough kitchen. It was wonderful to witness the joy on everyone's face as the young people, supervised by Lucy, the Fairbridge Organiser, served a tasty meal to our clients. This was a positive experience for everyone present.



Another group to whom we are extremely grateful is the team from Barclay's Contact Centre at Doxford Park. Their donation of £470 was used in a food shopping expedition in early December in which members of the Barclay's team, Help Link workers and a Trustee took part. Members

of the team also visited the Newcastle Thursday afternoon kitchen on the day of the Christmas party. This was a special day, since a service of remembrance for those of the homeless community who had died in 2009 was held in St John the Baptist Church where our kitchen currently takes place. The Vicar of St Andrew's was the speaker and the Mayor of Newcastle was a guest at the service.



The Mayor visited our kitchen after the service and helped to serve the food as well as talking with some of our clients.

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



Our Secretary was invited to receive a substantial cheque from the Barclay's team's fundraising on our behalf. This and a quantity of very suitable clothing were gratefully received.

The proceeds from the usual stall, run by some of our supporters, at Cleadon Methodist Church Craft

Fayre in October were used to buy items for Christmas presents for all of our clients.

Middlesbrough Rotary Club gave their annual generous gift of festive fare which enhanced the Christmas experience of all our clients.

Our thanks again go to all the Churches who donated food and money from their Harvest Services and to all the other organisations and individuals

who make regular contributions without which we would not be able to serve the numbers we do. On behalf of everyone at North East Help Link Trust, we wish you all a happy and prosperous 2010.



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 Eric Southwick (Treasurer)

☎ (0191) 5812233

☎ (0191) 5813999

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