

Newsletter

January 2015



We're still in January so hopefully it's still ok to say 'Happy New Year' from all of us here at the Booth Centre! Thank you to everyone who supported us over Christmas by volunteering their time or by donating items or vital funds. We are extremely grateful for your commitment to supporting homeless people in our community.

The centre has been very busy over the last few weeks during this period of severe cold weather. Working together with other partner agencies and Manchester City Council, we have been operating as the central hub for helping anyone who is homeless get into emergency accommodation, to ensure nobody has to endure the freezing temperatures. Whilst the severe cold weather provision has been in place, we have helped 130 people get into emergency accommodation.

If you see a rough sleeper...

... please get in touch. Your call could be the lifeline that a person needs to get off the streets.

Contact No Second Night Out (NSNO)
Tel: 0345 11 28 128 (24 hour)
www.riverside.org.uk/nsno/manchester



Coffee break appeal

Over 170 people visit the Booth Centre each week. We like to welcome them with a hot drink and a biscuit, but our stores are running low. You could really make a difference by donating to our coffee break appeal. We are in urgent need of:

- Coffee
- Tea
- Sugar
- Biscuits and cakes
- Fruit
- Financial donations



Thank you.

Special thanks to...

... Jon Besant, Scott Hannah, Becky Fitton and their army of volunteers who worked hard to host a fantastic Christmas jumper party on 29th December.

The group kindly extended their goodwill from the year before to put on another incredible Christmas lunch for all our visitors whilst raising over £5,000 towards the centre.

We were treated to a fun day filled with music and delicious food as well as individual gifts. Coronation Street star Beverley Callard also joined us for the day to help prepare and serve lunch.

The total raised by the group since 2013 now stands at a fantastic £13,631.52! Thank you so much to you all for your generosity and hard work.

John's story

John arrived at the Booth Centre literally shivering, he had been out all night. We were able to offer him a hot drink and a hot shower. It was only after he had put on a dry pair of socks and filled himself up with porridge and beans on toast that he felt able to tell us his story, how he had argued with his step dad and had walked out of the family home. Friends had put him up for a few nights but one night he didn't have anywhere to go and had to sleep rough. A Big Issue vendor told him to come to the Booth Centre.



John arrived on one of the coldest days of the year. As part of the severe cold weather arrangements we were able to book him straight into a bed and breakfast, so he wouldn't have to spend another night on the street. He came back to see us over the next few days and we helped him to get into a hostel and to phone his mum. Although he didn't feel able to return home at this stage, at least they are back in contact with each other and John is back at college.

Over the last 9 months we have helped 130 people like John to get into temporary accommodation.

Fundraising group

The Booth Centre's new volunteer fundraising group will have its first meeting on 18th February. The group hope to help plan and organise various fundraising events in the community to help raise money towards the work of the centre.

If you would like to find out more or fancy joining the group, get in touch with Amy, via amy@boothcentre.org.uk or on 0161 835 2499.

New keep fit sessions

We are delighted to have set up a new partnership with Street Soccer Academy. They are running weekly keep fit sessions at the Centre. This is part of our well-being programme which includes promoting healthy eating and exercise. It has also been great fun and very motivational.

The keep fit classes are part of our activities programme which includes drama, art, singing, IT, English classes and a job club. Over the last 9 months 365 people have taken part in the programme and 60 have gone on to get work.



Matched funding

#GiveMe5 is the latest matched funding initiative from Localgiving.com. On 25th February Localgiving will double 1,000 x £5 donations made through their website.

If you'd like to donate £5 on the #GiveMe5 date above, for the chance for it to be doubled to £10 at no extra cost to you, you can visit the Booth Centre page on their website: localgiving.com/boothcentre.

Just £5 can make a real difference for a homeless person, for example it's enough to pay for toiletries and a new pair of socks.