

Regular Giving

If you would like to support the work of Genesis on a regular basis please complete the form below. Gift Aid your giving and increase it by at least 25% at no extra cost (complete the declaration on the right).

Bankers Order

To (Name and address of your bank)

Address

City/Town

Postcode

Bank Sort Code

Account Number

Please pay Cooperative Bank, Olympic House, 6 Olympic Court, Montford Street, SALFORD, M5 2QP, for the credit of The Genesis Trust, Sort Code 08 92 50 Account Number 650 34956

The sum of £ on the day of month

2009 and thereafter each month each quarter each year until further notice

Signature

Date

Donation

I would like to make a donation towards the work of the Genesis Trust of

£

Please consider increasing your donation by at least 25% by gift aiding it (see right). Cheques payable to The Genesis Trust.

Title Full Name

Address

City/Town

Postcode

Daytime Tel

Mobile

Email Address

I would like to receive future mailings from the Genesis Trust

I would like to receive a copy of the Genesis Supporters Bulletin by email

Please send completed forms to the Fundraiser, The Genesis Trust, 1-3 James St West, Bath, BA1 2BX. Registered Charity number 1045828.

Thank you for your support

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Increase your donation by 25% at no extra cost, simply read the declaration below, tick the appropriate box, complete your full name and address then sign and date the form. The Genesis Trust will then reclaim tax on your donation/s of at least 25p for every pound you give, and it won't cost you a penny.

I want The Genesis Trust to treat:

My donation of £ as a Gift Aid donation or

All donations I make today and in future as Gift Aid donations or

All donations I made in the past 6 years and any future donations as Gift Aid donations.

I confirm that I must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax in each tax year that is at least the same as the amount of tax that will be reclaimed by the Genesis Trust in that tax year.

Title

First Name

Surname

Address

City/Town

Postcode

Email Address

Signature

Date



Genesis Lifeline Centre ...not just for Christmas

Helping the homeless
and people in need
in Bath

genesistrust.org.uk

Winter 2010

A lifeline for those in need

This issue of Genesis News focuses on the Lifeline Centre. The front cover shows last year's Lifeline Christmas party enjoyed by all our clients.

Winter brings many more visitors to Lifeline and intensifies the issues people face, so please pray for our visitors, volunteers and staff during these difficult months.



Goodwill at Christmas

One of the consequences of the public funding cuts is that the need for our services will increase and indeed we are already seeing the early signs of this.

In November we held a 'Genesis-Church Leaders Conference'. One of the agenda items was how Genesis could respond to the

needs of people who come to our projects for help. Please pray that we will have both the compassion to consider each person as an individual loved by God and the wisdom to know what we are able to commit to.

As I wrote above winter intensifies the issues people face. As the nights turn freezing cold and it becomes increasingly difficult to 'live on the streets' or to heat flats our thoughts turn towards those who are in need.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM.

It costs £22,000 each month to run our services and our income is not keeping pace with our costs. Please consider making a donation, however big or small, using the form on the back of this newsletter or set up a standing order.

May I thank once again everybody who volunteers for or supports Genesis. Times are undoubtedly hard, but I am always encouraged by how much people are willing to consider others needs as well as their own.

Thank you.

*Paul Solly,
Director,
The Genesis Trust.*

People News

The Wood Works: Goodbye John, Hello Byll

John Stubberfield, Wood Works Supervisor, took his well-earned retirement at the end of August.



John Stubberfield

Stephen Budd, The Wood Works manager would like to thank him for all he has done to help get The Wood Works off the ground and in particular for his organisation and management of the two moves. We wish John and his wife Mary all the best for the future.



Byll Pulman is a proud Devonian, now living on a narrow boat on the Avon. His first career was as a photographer, then he changed track, gaining a City and Guilds in Cabinet Making. After a recent short spell of unemployment he began volunteering in The Wood Works workshop.



Byll Pulman

When the Workshop Supervisor job became vacant it seemed the perfect job for him and he was over the moon to be offered the post. He believes The Wood Works is a wonderful project, and that having the chance to indulge his passion for wood, pass those skills on and help people all at the same time is a dream come true. Welcome Byll.

New Trustees

Four new trustees joined the Genesis Trust Board of Trustees in November: Stephen Lillicrap, Jim McPhee, Cherry Beath and Paul Kefford. We also established an Advisory Board which will focus on specific elements of our work. Members are Louise Cripps and Sharyn Ingram (previously trustees) Morny Davidson, Shirley Ward, Alison Marle and Ozzie ffield.

Welcome to all.

Genesis Furniture Project Grows

Well where to start! Things are going great here, even more so now that we are running with two vans rather than just one. Now we can offer a quicker delivery and collection service to all our customers and donors. This has led to turnover increasing over 40% in 8 weeks. Most importantly, this means that more people on low income are obtaining the furniture they want and need.

In addition our standard of furniture is starting to improve with each passing day. If you are letting go of any furniture for any reason please do consider donating it to the Furniture Project.

A New Face

Also, I would like to offer a "A BIG HELLO" to our newest member of staff, Tim Leach, and introduce him to you.



Tim Leach

With his previous experience at Pickfords Removals Tim has quickly become a great help and valuable member of staff. He has received a fantastic response from customers. We would all like to welcome Tim to our family at Genesis.

*Jamie Clifford, Manager,
Genesis Furniture Project.*

A New Volunteer

Peter Batchelor, is now doing our graphic design work. Many thanks.

News

Bath Half Marathon 2011

Genesis has 10 places for the Bath Half Marathon taking place on March 6th 2011.



Happy participants in last year's event

If you enjoy running and want to help Genesis, then this is a great way to support us by getting your friends and family to sponsor you.

Genesis Canal Challenge 2011

Next year's Canal Challenge will be on Saturday May 7th. Join us for a sponsored walk, canoe or cycle along a beautiful stretch of the canal from Bathampton or Dundas to Avoncliff.

For information on these events call Lynne on 01225 463549 or email: lynne@genesistrust.org.uk

A Fruitful Harvest for Genesis

A big thanks to all the churches and schools who donated their Harvest Festival goods to us this autumn. A growing number of people are coming to us for this help, so much so that we are now also distributing from Lifeline. We need more food.

Could your church help those in need by collecting non-perishable food all year round?



New Genesis Website

The new Genesis website is now live at genesistrust.org.uk. Many thanks to our volunteer Steve Howell for developing the site.

The Genesis Lifeline Centre

“The Next Step”

The Genesis Lifeline Centre is open weekdays 2-4pm, located in the basement of the Forum. It is run by Gloria Ware, supported by Karen Burnett and a dedicated team of volunteers.

The following interviews with staff, volunteers and visitors give a more personal view of what Lifeline is and what it means to people.

Thanks to Jon Gordon for being our roving reporter.

Gloria has managed Lifeline since it began 6 years ago. She gave us an insight into its ethos and success.

Q: Gloria, why is there a need for the Lifeline Centre?

A: In the limited time we are open we average over 6000 visits a year. This in itself gives you an idea of the demand out there.

With the looming cut-backs, centres like this will be even more crucial as people are inevitably going to be squeezed.

People of all ages come, both male and female, Christian or another or no faith, and they have a wide variety of needs. Just now, for example, I have been helping a young mum with two children who is facing eviction.

Q: Tell us about some of the things you do.

A: Our aim is to help people take 'The Next Step'. Last year for example we referred 91 people for housing and 14 were referred to rehabilitation services for substance misuse. On average I would say we help one person a week to get off the streets. We work closely with other agencies in the city and refer people onto the appropriate one.

The help needed is so varied, for example someone might be in fear of their lives so we help them resettle away from the area, or we go with someone to a housing interview or to hospital.

We also have a 'shop' giving out free clothing, bedding and food parcels to the homeless.

At Lifeline we also place a big emphasis on building community – such as our Christmas meal and the Good Friday service.

Q: Why does Lifeline work?

A: I think it's mostly because here we treat people with respect – and as we give, so it is given back to us. We have a welcoming approach where everyone is treated as equals and with dignity. Our visitors really appreciate the way they are treated here.



Gloria Ware - Lifeline Manager

Q: And the Christian element?

A: We offer an introduction to the churches and prayer. The welcome people receive here often leads them to ask what is it about the Lifeline team that is so unconditional and different.

The difference is the Christian ethos that we are guided by. Experiencing this can open up spiritual avenues in our visitors lives. In fact even just receiving a bag of food can be a catalyst as people are touched by the Christian environment they find at the Centre.

We also run a 7 week Christian counselling course called 'Healing on the Inside'. This course is well attended, but some do find it difficult as they need time to think through the benefit of forgiveness and apply it in their lives.

Q: How do you see Lifeline's role in the community?

A: I see Lifeline as part of putting church back into the community. It's an opportunity for the church to display the love of God to people in a safe and welcoming environment.

The church can show how looking after each other, building relationships, everyone being fed etc. are important things and it

can act as a counterculture against atheism, celebrity culture and materialism.

Christians can be part of this in many ways, for example by volunteering at Lifeline or as a church by collecting food, clothing and bedding for us to give to the homeless.

Q: What does volunteering at Lifeline involve?

A: The key focus of what they do is befriending, welcoming and talking to people. The volunteer's story which follows tells you more from a volunteer's point of view.

No experience is necessary as it's mostly about befriending. Some volunteers do offer their skills to our visitors, such as chiropody and arts and crafts. It would be good to have someone with medical backgrounds, maybe RGN, dental advisor, drug and alcohol advisor, or things like hairdressing and massage would also be appreciated by our visitors.

Our volunteers are amazing, the best in the world. Without them we would not be able to run Lifeline or even open the doors. I cannot thank them all enough.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, they can contact Gloria on 01225 329263.

Lifeline Volunteer Interviews

Lifeline could not run without its dedicated volunteers. Here two of them talk about their experiences:

Q: Why did you volunteer at Genesis Lifeline?

A: I felt that I wanted to do something to help within the community, especially to help the homeless.

Q: What is it that's most interesting about the clients? Is it their stories, their characters?

A: I am very wary about asking clients about their background too much. I listen and talk to clients.

It's a privilege to have someone sharing their life story with me.

Q: What is most noticeable about the clients you meet?

A: I suppose I'm surprised how very mixed the clients are, I think I'd expected them to be people from very poor backgrounds but it is a mix, and you get people from quite different home lives. They've all had some problems but are almost always very polite.

Q: What do you get from volunteering?

A: What I really get is the idea that I am helping a bit, that's probably what's most important to me, if it doesn't sound too selfish.

"I've been working at Lifeline for almost five years. I felt there really was a calling on my life from God to work alongside the poor and needy and the vulnerable.

I do things like help people fill out forms, listen, befriend people and make coffee. I did a course at Life for the World which helped me to do this work.

I get a real sense that I'm doing something worthwhile and that I'm doing what God wants from me; that I'm walking in obedience to His will. The most satisfying thing is seeing people's lives change – like when they go into rehab and they come out a completely changed person."



Karen - Lifeline Volunteer

Lifeline Visitors

People have many reasons for using the Lifeline Centre. Some are passing through, some stay on and become part of the family. Here are some of their stories...

A Newcomer:

"I ended up homeless after a bad fall meant I couldn't work and I lost my job. I went to the Soup Run and someone there directed me to Lifeline.

I was at Julian House for about a month, then they helped me to get accommodation. I'm in one of their shared houses, we all get along well.

At first I was wary of everyone at Julian House and Lifeline, but then I realised they were people a lot like me, they'd had pretty normal lives, something had happened that had knocked them for six and we're all just trying to make the best of a bad situation.

When I came to Lifeline Gloria collared me and got me a coffee; she put me at ease and now I feel like part of the furniture! It really helps to have some structure to my day – Julian House day centre in the mornings, Lifeline and the gym in the afternoons. I'm planning to volunteer for Genesis soon."

An Old Hand:

"I moved to Bath nearly six years ago. I was broken, stripped to the bone and homeless due to alcohol addiction. I ended up in Julian House, where someone took me to Lifeline. There I met Gloria, Joy, Dennis and all the volunteers who supported me.

By then I had stopped drinking, but needed some time and space for myself so I didn't tell my adult children where I was although I spoke to them on the phone. Lifeline took me to a church and there I fell in love with Jesus and was baptised. I have always had belief, but today I also have faith and it just keeps growing. Now I volunteer at Genesis, and I love working with others. Today I am blessed and happy, and I have all my family back in my life. Thanks to Genesis for helping me get my life back on track."



Ann and Mike run "the shop"



Karen - Lifeline Personal Support Worker