



Remember to entertain strangers for in so doing some have entertained angels unawares Hebrews 13:2



ANNUAL REVIEW 2011

**THE HOUSE OF GENESIS
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Project Worker/Project Leader

Donna Capel-Myall came to Genesis in April to take on the role of Support Worker. She stepped up to stand in as Project Worker in June and was appointed to the role of Project Leader in October.

I came to work with The House of Genesis in April and I immediately loved the “homely” feel of the project. I have been working in the care field for around ten years; firstly as a residential social worker looking after 15-21 year olds with challenging behaviour then I had a short time at a women’s refuge and lastly as an assertive outreach drug and alcohol worker which incorporated mental health issues.

I was privileged to be part of the set up of The Switch Project, a Hertfordshire Police run project set up to help prolific offenders with A class drug habits to aspire to change.



I like to work as holistically as possible and to incorporate the opinions of the residents. I have really enjoyed working at The House of Genesis and working with the residents and I am hoping to slowly integrate some group and therapeutic work with our new residents. I am very much looking forward to the new challenges awaiting me at The House of Genesis.

House Steward

Genesis has always recognised the importance of a 'friendly authority' around the home – a person the men could go to when support staff were not on duty and who would have an oversight for care of the property.

When the last House Steward left suddenly due to a spell of ill health, Ken Calderbank stepped in to help out for a six month period.

From October, we welcome our new House Steward, Brian Clark.

Brian has been seeking to return to work for some time, so he is able to empathise with the frustrations experienced by the residents.

PHOTO

He originally came to Genesis in June as a volunteer, before stepping in to help as a paid sessional worker, gaining valuable experience.

Brian will be undertaking some support work as 'on the job' training so he is able to deal with a range of issues which might arise whilst on duty. He will sleep at the house two or three times a week.

He will also oversee much of the Health and Safety, keeping an eye on small DIY tasks and ensuring the home is a safe environment.

Thus far, Brian is enjoying his new role and is looking forward to being a permanent member of the Genesis team.

A Look Back over the Year at Genesis

As we approach the end of yet another year, we are thankful that, for all of us at Genesis, trustees, staff and residents, we remain, in spite of everything, in a hopeful and positive frame of mind.

Residents



We started the year with four men, two of whom had come from prison, one who came as an alternative to custody, and the fourth with some mental health issues that needed to be addressed. Each of these achieved much in their lives while they were with us. Of them, two now have their own tenancies, one was reconciled with his family and returned to live at home and the fourth moved in with his girl friend.

As I write, we now have five residents, having made another usable bedroom in our converted garage!

Of these men, two, both ex-prisoners, came to us from a hostel situation, another came direct from prison, one from being homeless and in bed & breakfast after a family breakdown, and the fifth from being homeless on the streets. After a lot of work and attention from staff this group has become well integrated and are mostly supportive to each other.

Staff

Chris Wood, who joined us last year as our House Steward stayed only six months; health issues around the Christmas period caused her to leave quite suddenly. At that point Val stepped in and, along with Jill Mayes, our Project Worker, held the fort for the next few weeks. Ken Calderbank then appeared on our doorstep in need of accommodation, but as he had relevant experience, we took him on in the sleeping-in role. In April, Donna Capel-Myall was appointed as our Support worker and in June, Jill asked for, and was given, a 3 month, unpaid, leave period to run a conference. During this time Brian Clark was appointed to help and support Donna in running Genesis.

In amongst all these comings and goings, Val has been working towards the time when she can step back into the trustee only role and stop being day to day Manager of Genesis. It is hoped that this will be achieved by the end of this year!

In spite of the many ups and downs and changes, mostly of staff, the house remains remarkably stable and it is apparent that our residents, for whom it all exists, feel at home with us.



Genesis Gallery 2011



The veranda in the rear garden provides a covered space where housemates can gather for a cigarette and a

Our most recent residents have been keen to learn more cooking skills.

Val came in to help make a batch of marmalade.



Trustees

It's been another good year for the House of Genesis. The year has brought a number of successes for our residents, with most moving on to fully independent living. This is extremely important to us, given our aim to house homeless and ex-offenders, who often present with complex problems and needs. Housing them is only the beginning of re-establishing them in the society to which we all belong.

Despite the current difficult climate, the charity is financially stable and able to meet all the expectations upon it, working to our Business Plan. We are fully settled at our premises in Thorpe St Andrew. We have the benefit of dedicated and skilled staff, who along with the Trustees have brought such positive outcomes for the charity.

The coming year will bring fresh challenges. We pride ourselves on learning and adapting to the changing context in which we operate, and with the grace of God we will continue to achieve success.

Jon O'Byrne, Chair

THANK YOU

To all our supporters, far and near...

Your gifts of food, time, finance, clothes and furnishings are greatly appreciated. No matter how small or how sizeable, we're glad of your generosity... our work would not be the same without you.

Thank you for helping people turn their lives around, we've been blessed by your gifts.

Current trustees

- Jon O'Byrne – Chairman
- Alan Lusher – Secretary
- Mary Cousins
- Val Dodsworth
- Martin Graham
- Lillas Standage
- Honorary Accountant – John Duvall

Sad News

This time last year, we were happy to report on the success of one of our residents, Thomas Marr, who had succeeded in turning his life around and had moved on and into his own flat.



We were able to keep in touch, informally, with him and he often visited the house, helping out around the garden and sharing a meal or two. We were shocked and saddened to learn that Thomas passed away, suddenly, in July. Thomas was a great guy with a kind heart. He'd had problems and tough times but he was determined to make something better of himself. He was rightly proud of his progress and took great care of his new home. Thomas chose to remain in Norfolk and keep away from his old troubles, although he remained a loving brother, uncle and son, visiting his family in Scotland whenever funds would allow. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family – he will be sadly missed