



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



ANNUAL REVIEW 2012

THE HOUSE OF GENESIS

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Genesis Gallery 2011



External view of our new extension at The House of Genesis.



Internal view of the group room and office.



Our most recent residents have been keen to learn more cooking skills, making a wonderful lasagne for the house dinner

2012 A Year of Perseverance.....

We started out on the New Year full of optimism, but it turned out to be a year when our greatest need was for perseverance!

With three men who had been with us for about a year, each of whom felt ready to move on into their own tenancy.....no flats were available.....

Like the rest of the country, we began to be aware of the chronic housing shortage and it has been a factor for most of the year. Residents were getting more and more frustrated and staff valiantly trying to keep it all going as peacefully and positively as possible.

At the beginning of February, after waiting 3 months for CRB clearance, James Mattless finally joined us and alongside our more than usually restive residents, the staff then started trying to build themselves into a new team.

However, as has been the case over so many years, our colleagues at Broadland District Council were finally, after many months, able to help us move two of our men into their own flats, and one other decided to move on into a shared house.

Each of these residents had found the waiting time hard to endure, and there were a few near misses, but they did manage to hold their lives together without getting into any further trouble; all remain in touch with us and are enjoying the feeling of at last making good progress in their lives....perhaps all the more, as it was so hard won.

So we look to 2013 with a new group of residents beginning to settle in, with a staff team that is now well into the process of working together, and the hope, that even in these days of reducing welfare provision, Genesis will continue to be funded and will continue to be able to help the men who come to us, to turn their lives around.

Project Worker

James Mattless came to Genesis February 2012 to take on the role as Project Worker.

I started work on 1st February, immediately was made to feel very welcome by staff, residents and trustees, I loved the environment and could see that the family atmosphere of the house was going to be a challenging, life changing experience for residents and myself.

I came into this profession 4 years ago after undergoing drug and alcohol rehabilitation at Teen Challenge London where my love and compassion grew to see lives changed restored into their full potential. the success stories I learned that your bigger than your past and from this life experience wanted to pass on to others I received.



and
healed and
Being one of
future is far
changing
the great gift

After completing the 12 month rehabilitation programme at TCL I then trained as a key worker, went to study psychotherapy with YWAM London and was employed by TCL full time. After working full time for a year was given the opportunity of starting a Community Project where I would take out residents and do Property Maintenance around the East London area, this built character into individuals giving them confidence, dignity and high self esteem. Since moving back we have replicated Community Projects to Norwich.
www.7cscommunityproject.co.uk. I came home to Lowestoft Christmas 2010 where I believed it was time for me to move home and build up my relationships with family. This led me to starting work at Genesis and after 10 months we have seen 3 of our past residents move out into society and start to give back into the community which they live. This is why we do what we do, I find that there is nothing more

rewarding than seeing peoples lives changed for the better, teaching them that there is another way and all things are possible if only we make the right choices.

I would like to say thank you to all for the privilege of working with you and look forward to the coming New Year. May it be prosperous to all...

Trustees

Overall, it's been another great year for the House of Genesis. As we start our 13th year supporting ex-offenders and homeless men, we can report on a number of success stories for residents who have moved on in re-establishing themselves in the community. Despite a significant sea change in the external context, almost all residents have left Genesis with independent accommodation in place and a strong base from which to contribute to society.

We continue to improve the facilities offered within the house. We are grateful to the several Trusts that have supported us with grants towards building a conservatory extension which will become a useful group work room. Our finances are robust, despite changes in funding by central government, and we are in a good position to ride out future changes.

So filled with hope and the love of God, we look forward to another successful year for residents, staff, trustees, funders and our wider community.

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.



Residents

Out of the four men that were living with us for the greater part of this year, three were ex-prisoners and one was street homeless and in very poor health. We have managed to move three of them on into independent properties. Each one of them has chosen to be given floating support by our staff as they settle into the next phase of their lives.

I am pleased to say they are all doing really well so far. They have achieved so much and grown in the comparatively short period of their lives they have spent with us. All are either working full time or continuing to volunteer and keep busy whilst looking for paid work. As I write, we now have three new residents who are settling nicely into our home in time for Christmas!

Past and Present Ex Residents Comments:

I have only just moved in and already I feel like I am home. It is a friendly, motivated place to live and I'm treating it as a surrogate family, not a hostel.

New and Exciting changes this year

We would like to say a very big thank you to The Geoffrey Watling Charity and The Quaker Housing Trust for donating money to enable us to build a conservatory extension at The House of Genesis. We shall be using this room for our Group Work programme as well as educational work and the one to one work with our residents, supporting them during their journey with us. We are also looking to involve past residents in a new Service User Group, of which the monthly meetings will be held in our new extension.

We have been on a few outings under our Personal and Social Development Plan. One such outing was roller skating at a local rink! The residents were awesome as most of them hadn't ever skated before or not for years!



With the help of other charities, including the 7 C's Community Work and the Foodbank, we are setting up a new programme for our current residents to enable them to have a choice of voluntary work to do each week to prepare them for a full working life and independent living in the very near future.

Current trustees

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

Great News – Charity Cycle Ride



Our new project worker James Mattless and our (now ex) resident Bill Finkbeiner cycled 172 miles in four days from the West Coast of Cumbria across the East Coast of the North Yorkshire Moors to raise money for The House of Genesis and the House of Prayer. They raised in total an amazing £900 which, after expenses, was split between the two charities.

There are plans to organise another charity event next year.

Well done lads!!!