



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



ANNUAL REVIEW 2013

THE HOUSE OF GENESIS

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The Overall Picture is Positive

Val Dodsworth

We started 2013 with a new group of men, just beginning to find their feet, each of whom has now moved on successfully and hopefully. As we approach the year's end we have one old friend returned to us, and three new ones who have been with us only a short time, ranging from a few weeks to a couple of months.

These early weeks can be very difficult as staff aim to get to know each one and their varying likes & dislikes, wants and needs. In addition the men have to get to know each other and to start the often tricky business of living together, as strangers, in a sort of "pseudo family" situation. It can, and does, produce some tense moments!

Our staff are remarkably settled and working well together, Donna has now been in charge for over 2 years and James in the Project Worker post for just under 2 years, they know each other's strengths and weaknesses. Paula has fitted into the Support Worker role, vacated by Brian earlier in the year, and is proving an excellent addition.

We have just had the encouragement of confirmation of Supporting People funding for another 2 years, so Genesis can expect to survive the government cuts a bit longer yet.

The applications to live at Genesis continue to come in thick and fast and I continue to hanker after another house.....Perhaps next year?

The Residents - For Whom it all Exists.

Our funding pot for the Personal & Social Development Programme is still going strong both in and out of the house. The aim is to help residents enjoy a social life without an evening out ending in some sort of disaster!



We try to have some educational fun in the short period of their lives that they are with us; meals out together, sports or leisure activities and personal support time



Past and Present Residents' Comments 2013:

"It's the first place like this that I've ever been that people actually care – CD"

"I'm really happy to have a second chance here at Genesis after I messed up the first one" - SM

A word from our Project Leader:

It has been another hectic year for us here at The House of Genesis. We have been meeting new residents; supporting them into work and then on into their own independent accommodation. Several of our men have completed and passed various training courses.



I have been particularly busy this year networking and setting up new links with other agencies. This can help the lads to move forward and have new chances and the hope of employment. I am now awaiting the outcome of a link which would offer valuable apprenticeship opportunities for some of them.

I have also started running Alcohol Awareness Groups with some of our residents for which we meet once a week to discuss and work through issues around their alcohol intake and how it affects their responsibilities.

We have also been looking into the possibility of setting up a new project regarding Safeguarding issues for visiting children in the house, so that our residents, many of whom come from broken relationships, can continue to see their children in a safe and friendly home environment.

I am still filled with enthusiasm for the job and find it rewarding to see people's lives change for the better. It is good to be able to help to show and teach them that there are other ways of approaching problems and difficulties, and that all things are possible if only we make the right choices. I would like to say thank you for the privilege of working with you all and very much look forward to the coming New Year. May it be peaceful and prosperous for all...

Welcome to our new part time Staff member:

We would like to introduce to you our newest colleague Paula Humphrey



"I came to the house in October as a volunteer and was very quickly made to feel welcome by staff and residents. I was pleased then to be offered some part-time hours as a Support Worker. I love the homely feel of the house and I am enjoying the challenges that I am experiencing as a complete newcomer to this field of work.

I find the work to be very rewarding as the residents come to trust me and appreciate what we are doing to help them and have found that it has made me consider how I do things, and what I do in my personal life and with my family. In fact it has given me a whole new outlook and I hope to continue here with The House of Genesis for the foreseeable future".

James Mattless - Project Worker:

This has been an exciting yet challenging year, times are hard with the uncertainty of council accommodation, benefit cuts, and our residents having to seek private sector accommodation.

This makes me think about faith and trust. The Bible tells a story of two men who went out to build their houses; one built it on a rock, the other on the sand.

At The House of Genesis, we aim to encourage our residents not to take short cuts, but to lay a good foundation for their futures.

This often involves trying to build good relationships in the community, and making a positive contribution; thinking about maintaining good physical and mental health; learning to manage independent living; being prepared to participate in training or education, so as to achieve qualifications. Participating in leisure, cultural, faith or informal learning activities; getting involved in voluntary activities; re- establishing contact with family or friends;

maximising income legally and reducing debt so that when they move on they are strong to stand on their own feet, with the result of being a positive asset to the community.

Two Move on Stories

We worked with Broadland District Council to enable our longest staying resident, Oliver, to move into a beautifully situated flat in July after having been at Genesis for 2 years. He has since decorated and furnished it.

Well done Oliver!

Richard turned his life round very quickly. He was motivated and focused on a clear goal. Whilst he was with us he redecorated almost the whole of The House of Genesis, doing a fantastic job. He then signed onto an intensive construction course and is now in full time work and living in private rented accommodation.

Well done Richard!

Looking Back.....News of some old friends.

Darren was with us in 2001 and we recently heard he is settled in the North and working, and about to marry again. But, and he was a prolific offender, he's not been in trouble since his time with us

Graeme, also of the 2001-2 era, is settled in Norwich, with a partner and a nearly 2 year old son, they have a lovely home, and he is working for the church. Graham has recently been diagnosed with cancer.

John, also from those early days, is now re- married and settled and still a workaholic!

Some Statistics from the Last 4 Years

Since our move to Laundry Close 4 years ago, Genesis has accommodated 17 men + the 4 who are with us now.

6 were aged 20-30; 7 between 30 & 40; 4 were over 40

3 were non offenders, but homeless for other reasons

9 moved on into their own flats; 3 moved in with girl friends

1 returned to live with his family

2 were evicted, one of these is now back in residence;

1 in custody & 1 just disappeared.

Current trustees

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

Our Trustees would like to say

It is a real pleasure to look through this review and see the great successes of the year just ending. Sometimes it can be difficult to see, on a day to day basis, just how much is being achieved. The charity is in very good shape in a number of ways, which is due to the hard work of our dedicated staff, the support of the trustees and, most importantly, God's grace and blessing.

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