



NORTH HERTS SANCTUARY

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2011

ST. MUNGO'S

The Sanctuary is delighted to be able to report that The Sanctuary and St Mungo's have agreed to go into partnership for the future running of the Sanctuary services in Hitchin. This partnership will afford The Sanctuary access to St Mungo's wealth of experience of working to support homeless people since 1969 and free up our time for important fundraising activities.

WEAKEST LINK - OUR STAR, CAROL

Carol Allen, a Project Worker at The Sanctuary has faced 'The Queen of Mean' and taken part in The Weakest Link! Carol said "After all the anticipation of having to answer tricky questions in front of an audience, Anne Robinson put me on the spot by making me sing!" We would like to congratulate Carol on taking part and not being 'The Weakest Link!'"



'MOVE-ON' SUCCESS

The Sanctuary is proud to be able to announce that in the last 3 months 85 per cent of service users have moved on into permanent housing! This has been achieved by The Sanctuary now being able to provide a daytime programme of services to help address the social and health needs of service users thereby enabling those who are ready to move onto permanent housing.

ASHWELL MUMMERS RAISE MONEY FOR THE SANCTUARY



Every year around Christmas time, the Mummers take their troop to perform at various hostelrys in Ashwell, to raise funds for the Sanctuary.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Would you be interested in becoming a member of The Sanctuary? If so, we would love to have you! The only commitment of a Member is to agree to contribute up to One Pound towards the Sanctuary's debts, if called upon, but we would be very grateful for a voluntary donation of £5. We will keep you informed about all activities and services, and you will be invited to future Annual General Meetings. Please pick up and complete a Membership Form at the AGM and we will action it.

REGULAR DONATIONS AND GIFT AID

The Sanctuary is thrilled to report that in December it received a high level of monetary donations, as well food and clothing.

Are you thinking of making The Sanctuary a monetary donation? If so, please ask for one of our Gift Aid forms if you are a UK tax payer. This means that the Sanctuary will receive additional funds.

WAITROSE

Keep an 'eye out' if you are shopping in Waitrose in the future, as we are hoping that they will adopt the Sanctuary soon as one of their monthly charities. All your green plastic coins would be greatly appreciated!

THE FLOOD – CLEARING UP!

Unfortunately, as many of you may be aware, The Sanctuary was flooded by the river next door last year. Since then remedial work has been undertaken and we are pleased to announce that this has now been completed and all services are back in residence in Grove Road!



Our grateful thanks go to Walsworth Road Baptist Church and the Catholic Church for the use of their facilities during this very difficult time.

FUNDRAISING

We are delighted to welcome Alistair MacDougall to the Sanctuary's Management Committee to provide assistance and expertise for improving our fundraising efforts. Alistair has a wealth of experience in this field and is currently formulating an 'action plan' to take forward. This plan will include approaching a variety of 'trusts', small and medium sized and the Big Lottery Fund. Alongside this, local newspapers and radio stations will be contacted to increase awareness of The Sanctuary and its important work with the homeless.

We have recently received £22,000 from Herts County Council to assist with vital capital expenditure and services.

CHRISTMAS AT THE SANCTUARY



WOOLGROVE SCHOOL AND ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE

Woolgrove School and St. Francis College in Letchworth are supporting The Sanctuary by raising funds and awareness for the Sanctuary.

The Woolgrove School held a PE event, 'Build a Shelter' Day for the students to participate in to raise money. This was a great success and resulted in the School Council presenting The Sanctuary with a cheque for £58.60.

At St. Francis College the Year 8 students chose The Sanctuary as one of two charities to support this academic year. Michelle Brister from The Sanctuary spoke to a school assembly about the hostel and its work with homeless people and two students have also presented two assemblies on homelessness. The Year 8 students will continue to undertake activities to help support The Sanctuary including publicizing the charity and providing material and financial support through fundraising activities.

Our grateful thanks go to both schools for all their support.

THE SANCTUARY IS CHARITY OF THE YEAR!

Willmott Dixon, a national construction company based in North Herts, have nominated The Sanctuary as their Charity of the year.

..... **AND FINALLY!**

NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome Victoria Adegoke who has joined us as a Project Worker and Carl Williams who has now joined us on a full-time basis.

COMPANIES OFFERING THE SANCTUARY SUPPORT

We are very grateful to Noble Solicitors, Drugsline and Stevenage and North Herts Housing who have all offered their services 'free of charge' to our clients on a regular basis.

P.S.

DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR NEW WEBSITE – www.northhertssanctuary.org.uk