



# NORTH HERTS SANCTUARY

Providing Shelter and targeted support to people in need

## NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2011

### ST. MUNGO'S

The proposed partnership between The Sanctuary and St Mungo's is very much ongoing and is currently in the hands of both companies legal people. The proposed handover of buildings and operations is expected in the coming weeks.

### 'MOVE-ON' SUCCESS

The Sanctuary is proud to be able to announce that in the last quarter 69% 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.

### VOLUNTEER OPEN DAY

North Herts Sanctuary held two volunteer open sessions on Friday 8 July from 11-1 and 3.30-5.30. The Sanctuary was looking for volunteers to help with administration duties, cooking meals and teaching classes to clients. The event was well attended and we were able to recruit twenty-five new volunteers to help in a number of different areas. Thanks to everyone who helped to organise and run the event.

If you think you could offer us some of your time, please contact Sally Everett on 01462 435835 – it would be very much appreciated!

### COLD WEATHER SHELTER JOINT VENTURE WITH THE HAVEN, STEVENAGE

Cold Weather Provision enables local "Rough Sleepers" to get temporary shelter during the worst of the winter weather. The Sanctuary is working with the Haven in Stevenage to provide a facility that covers all of North Herts. This service is supported by both local councils and will operate from November to March. This is additional to our normal service where single homeless engage to solve their individual problems and find more permanent accommodation.

### STAFF NVQ TRAINING

The Sanctuary is delighted to report that we have been able to source free NVQ training for our staff. We currently have 3 members of staff on NVQ level 2 training and 3 more on NVQ level 3 training in Health and Social Care. This training is scheduled to run for a period of 6-8 months.

### LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

We are thrilled to announce that a programme of 'life skills training' commenced on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2011. The overall aim is to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in North Herts by developing the life skills and abilities appropriate to independent living.

We are offering a broad spectrum of training encompassing IT and the internet, financial and general life skills to enable people to find permanent accommodation and jobs. This training also provides support for those people who are already in permanent accommodation, but still need support by way of a 'drop in' session. They can also be put in touch with 'other' services if required.



### THANK YOU!

We would like to express our grateful thanks to two trusts who have kindly made The Sanctuary donations recently. They are: The Alchemy Foundation who donated £500 and The Beatrice Laing Trust who donated £1,000. Needless to say, these are very much appreciated by everyone at The Sanctuary.

### VANITY BEAUTY ACADEMY RAISES MONEY FOR THE SANCTUARY

Vanity Beauty Academy, a beauty school located on Sun Street in Hitchin, held a fundraising event for the Sanctuary on 27 August. The Academy, opened by Joanna Webb, offered patrons free introductory treatments for a donation to the Sanctuary. Joanna raised £130 for the Sanctuary. Joanna has done some homelessness volunteering over Christmas with the Whitechapel Mission in London. We are very grateful for Joanna's support of the Sanctuary.

### QUIZ NIGHT!

The Sanctuary is holding a Quiz Night on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 at Paynes Park Social Club. Tickets are

£10 each which includes a fish and chip supper. If you are interested in coming please contact Jayne The Sanctuary for tickets.

### **WILLMOTT DIXON BACKS HITCHIN'S NORTH HERTS SANCTUARY**

Hitchin's largest construction company is striking up a long term alliance with homeless charity North Herts Sanctuary.

The Hitchin office of Willmott Dixon, the UK's second largest privately owned construction company that is headquartered in nearby Letchworth Garden City, will use its 125 plus team to raise money and provide support for The Sanctuary's many initiatives.

The first of these saw Willmott Dixon field three teams to raise £1,500 by completing the famous Three Peaks Challenge, which involves climbing the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales within 24 hours.



### **REFURBISHMENT IS NOW COMPLETE!**

Another initiative has seen Willmott Dixon volunteers recently work at the charity's premises on Nightingale Road to remove redundant equipment such as old furniture and generally provide a tidy-up. This will continue, with various teams from the Hitchin office on Park Street taking turns to spend half a day at the Sanctuary to assist with repairs and regeneration of the property.

Hitchin managing director Chris Tredget says, "We think that North Herts Sanctuary does some terrific work with homeless people and as a local company we are really keen to provide support to this valuable charity.

"Alongside our fundraising activities, which will also include a dress down day every Month, we'll provide hands-on help, and one of the areas I think we can assist is with providing insights to help those supported by the charity to get into the construction industry."

### **LV= CHALLENGE**

The "Beast" Adventure Race was taken on by Jason O'Dell, Tamlin Russell, Steve Hughes and Keith Harvey who are all employed by the Insurance Co LV= based here in Hitchin. After completing their arduous task the guys raised a staggering 400 which was then Charity Matched by LV=. The total was split between a number of charities with the Sanctuary benefitting from a donation of £510.

Many thanks to Jason, Tamlin, Steve & Keith for all their efforts and also to LV= for doubling the amount they raised.

### **PRESENTATION TO MIMRAM ROTARY CLUB**

We were asked by Mimram Rotary Club to come and do a presentation about The Sanctuary at one of their meetings. This proved very successful and they kindly made a donation of £100 to The Sanctuary, for which we are very grateful.

If you are in a local social group and you think they might like to learn more about The Sanctuary, please contact us to arrange a date!

### **WHY NOT DONATE AS YOU SHOP ONLINE?**

Did you know, when you are shopping on the internet you can automatically make a donation to the charity of your choice at the same time without incurring any cost to yourself! North Herts Sanctuary is registered on fundraising websites, which allow you to make direct donations to the Sanctuary by purchasing goods from your favourite retailers online.

With [www.simplefundraising.co.uk/4727/](http://www.simplefundraising.co.uk/4727/) then just click on the icon for e.g. Amazon, M&S, Debenhams, B&Q, Tesco, etc. You shop on-line with major retailers in the normal way and the Sanctuary benefits each time.

We also have an account with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nhs](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nhs) which allows you to shop online and up to 15% from every purchase you make can be donated to the North Herts Sanctuary as your nominated charity.

### **REGULAR DONATIONS AND GIFT AID**

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 taxpayer. This means that the Sanctuary will receive additional funds at no cost to yourself.

North Herts Sanctuary now also has a Virgin Giving account available on the home page of The Sanctuary website. With Virgin Giving you can make a donation, a monthly standing order, or organise a fundraiser. Supporting The Sanctuary is just a click away!

### **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 a one-off contribution of One Pound, 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 entitled to vote at future Annual General Meetings.

**You can now find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nhsanctuary](http://www.facebook.com/nhsanctuary)**