

How Can You Help Us?

Charity Number: 110567

Name: _____

Address: _____

I / We would like to sponsor Canaan Trust for the sum of: £ _____ per month.

By Standing Order / Direct Debit / Cash / Cheque (Delete as applicable)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please indicate if you would like to Gift Aid this donation Yes / No

Our Project Structure

Directors (Voluntary):- Clive Lee (Chair), Beryl Tansley (Finance), Susan Lee, Annette Richmond, Stephen Holmes, Beth Richardson

Chaplain:- Graham Streek

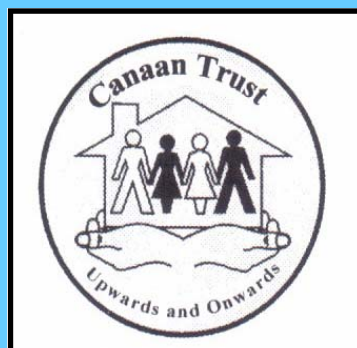
Staff:- Phil Coles (Manager), Trudy Burkey (Deputy Manager / Support Worker), Russell Olding (Support Worker),

Chris Rowley (Pastoral Support Worker), Dave Johnson and Brian Olding (Nightworkers), Margaret Saunderson (Administration), Carol Robertson (Cleaner)

Volunteers:- John Charity and Claire Briggs (Admin.). Rough Sleepers Project Co-ordinator:- Phil Coles

Proverbs 31 : 8—9

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”



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He says **“THANK YOU”**

Issue 1

September 2005



Canaan Trust News

Changing Aspirations

On 1st April this year we changed our name from the Aspire Trust to Canaan Trust.

This change followed the appointment of Phil Coles as Project Manager in December 2004 and other staff changes have followed—more on this inside.

Why *Canaan*? Well Canaan is known as God’s promised land. When God called Abraham He said to him *“Leave your country, your people and your Father’s household, and go to the land I will show you.”* It was many hundreds of years later when the people of Israel finally entered into the promised land. On their journey they experienced homelessness, slavery, prejudice and injustice, but under the leadership of Joshua the people finally entered into a home of their own.

Many of our residents have experienced not only homelessness, but have

been enslaved by addictions such as drugs and alcohol. They have also experienced prejudice and injustice and have very often been marginalised by society.

Our desire is to bring them into wholeness in every area of their lives.

Canaan Trust symbolises coming into wholeness in body, soul and spirit.

Our vision

It has been our vision to own a large property where we can create a real home for our residents—rather than a hostel environment—and after much prayer God has rewarded us with

Our new Home

This is a large semi-detached residence nearer the centre of Long Eaton and we are so excited. There is of course a tremendous amount of work to be carried out in converting rooms such that each resident has their own room. The potential for the property is fantastic and we can

finally look forward to having the office on the same site and actually owning the building.

If you are interested in looking at the new property and / or helping in any practical way then please contact us. Contact details are on the back page.

We are also seeking driver volunteers and leaders for our Rough Sleeper Project (Soup Run) - please let us know if you can help. (Update in next issue).



Phil Coles
 Project Manager

Who are we? What do we do? Your Questions Answered.

What is Canaan Trust?

We provide supported accommodation and work towards independent living for our homeless residents.

What do we mean by support?

Our Project Workers assist the residents in the following areas:-

- Financial management
- Personal Care
- Relationships
- Education
- Employment
- Emotional needs
- Spiritual needs
- Move-on accommodation

How are we funded?

This is always a concern. Although we receive Housing Benefit and Supporting

People funding, this only covers some staffing and basic running costs. We rely on God’s provision through the generosity and goodwill of many caring people including volunteers and donations, without which much of our work would be impossible.

How can you help?

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WANTED

- Single beds—frames and mattresses
- Bedroom furniture—modern and in good condition
- Willing volunteers to help with general maintenance
- Reputable builders with knowledge of building regulations etc. for renovation and partitioning
- Provisions for rough sleepers—see page 5
- Household goods and equipment for making the new home more appealing

“A View From The Chair”



Chairman Clive Lee writes:-

“As Aspire the Project was birthed and grew in the knowledge that if we remained faithful to the vision God had given then we were safe. That was true, God was faithful, He was patient and is the true father. As He moulded the Project through the Trustees, changing them and changing the line up as and when required bringing in new faces, new ideas but all with the same vision and passion for the Project. It has been my privilege to work alongside my fellow Trustees and all the staff working in the Project.

The road has never been smooth, in fact at times it has been very rough, but through His strength and our belief in the Project we have fought off many demons in many guises. There has been times when we have faced what has seemed impossible tasks and opposition to the way forward, but nothing is impossible to Him, yet we are still surprised when victory over adversity is gained.

“So we bought in faith and are now in the process of purchasing our second property and the largest yet, made possible by a very generous donation. He is a true and faithful God.”

The last 18 months has been particularly difficult with changes in government funding which brought in new systems and changes in the criteria we had to meet. This along with the vision God had given that we should change our name, move the Project to be a Company Limited by Guarantee and

own our own property.

The new name was quite easy. It was given to us at a prayer meeting and is Canaan – The Promised Land. Changing the Project into a Company Limited by Guarantee was more time consuming trawling through the legalities. Trying to find a property large enough to house all our needs, yet at a price we could afford – impossible!

So we bought in faith and are now in the process of purchasing our second property and the largest yet, made possible by a very generous donation. He is a true and faithful God.

The property will need alterations so there is still a lot of work to be done, but He never said it would easy.

As we journey forward with Canaan I am sure we will face many new problems but we rest assured in the knowledge that we have a faithful God.”

Clive

Chaplain’s Corner

Graham Streek is Canaan’s Chaplain and he writes:

“In Judges chapters 6-8 we meet Gideon, who, on the surface, is God’s ‘man-of-the-moment’ to bring about the release of the Midianites. But when we consider that God was actually the one who sent the Midianites (Judges 6:1), we realise that the skirmishes were merely secondary to His purposes. His primary aim was not *revenge*, but *redemption*. He wanted to restore Israel to Himself. What He required from Gideon was trust and obedience. In chapter 7 of Judges, Gideon was *mad* enough to trust in his relationship with God and take 300 men to attack a camp of over 100,000 Midianites. He didn’t actually have to go through with the attack however, as God turned the Midianites against themselves. All Gideon had to do was be *willing* to act.

I was thinking back on some of the recent events that the team at Canaan Trust have experienced. There is no doubt that the events of the last year have been a life-changing experience for many. What did we learn from all this? I know that we learnt to trust Him a little more than we did before.

In my experience with God, He seems to set me little tests that I believe are designed to draw me closer to Him and improve our relationship with each other. These are often challenging when in the midst, but the results are rarely seen until later. This is TRUST. The Bible says that God’s ways are not our ways, and that He knows the best for us. All we need to do is trust and obey and be willing.

GOD + US is always a winning combination.”

Graham



Graham Streek, Canaan Trust’s Chaplain

Isaiah 58:6

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen; to loosen the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked to clothe him, and not turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I.”

Pete’s story-Making a new start

Forced to miss out on three years of school looking after his brothers and sisters while his parents went to work, Pete harboured a quiet dream of becoming a mechanic.

He yearned for the chance to one day own his own garage where pride of place would be his ideal car—a red Subaru Impreza.

But when he was suddenly kicked out of his home by his parents with no qualifications, all his hopes seemed an unlikely pipe-dream.

It took the support of social workers, friends and staff at Long Eaton homeless charity The Canaan Trust, formerly known as Aspire, to give the young Manchester United fan the confidence to pursue his ambition.

And against the odds the 17-year-old, originally from Ilkeston, has not let his past affect his future. Since moving into the trust’s hostel in Clarence Road, last August, he has started a motor mechanic course at South East Derbyshire College in a bid to get his life on track.

“I’ve always wanted to be a mechanic and one day I want to have my very own company,” said Pete.

“There was a time I didn’t think it was possible, but now thanks to the trust my life is a lot different.

“I no longer have to babysit my brothers and sisters. My parents made me look after them seven nights a week and I was kept off school.

“Before I came to the hostel I hadn’t been to school for three years and I was very skinny.

“But now I have put on the weight I lost, and for the first time can look towards the future.

“I missed a lot of school and it has been hard but I am getting back into it. I am really enjoying my course.”

Pete already has a City and Guilds certificate in Health and Safety under his belt and passed two exams towards level one of his NVQ mechanic’s course.

He no longer sees his parents or brothers and sisters who all still live in his family home. After he was kicked-out by his dad, a neighbour took him into her home. She knew how Pete was being mistreated and contacted social services.

Within weeks, Pete’s social worker referred his case to the Canaan Trust, and after a few weeks of filling out forms, he attended an interview at the hostel and moved in the next day.

Here Pete has his own bedroom with a kitchen and sitting area and there is a separate communal area where all nine residents can meet, play pool, watch DVDs and hang out. And the trust’s dedicated team project workers, office staff and house manager are on hand to guide and support all the house mates in all aspects of their lives.

For example project workers like Russell Olding equip the residents with skills such as money management and housekeeping, in preparation for

“Before I came to the hostel I hadn’t been to school for three years and I was very skinny.

“But now I have put on the weight I lost, and for the first time can look towards the future.”

them to run their own home.

Pete is just one of hundreds of young men the trust has helped to re-home or provide a half-way house for them to get back on their feet since it was set up 10 years ago by a pastoral worker at the Oasis Centre.

Working closely with children’s charity Barnados and other organisations such as Connexions the trust receives referrals from social services and the probation services. Their aim is to re-home men like Pete who have for some reasons found themselves on the streets or sleeping on friends’ floors and sofas.

House Manager Phil Coles, said: “Homelessness is not exclusively a street issue. Our main referrals are 16 to 17 year-old lads who have been kicked out of their family homes.”

“Sadly, we live in a disposable society and the young men who stay with us have told how they have been forced out of their homes for many reasons. They are the hidden homeless who sleep on friends’ sofas until social services or others become aware of their plight.”

“Many of our residents have missed out on mainstream education because of their home life. They have no qualifications and no aspirations but our aim is to give some hope and purpose to their lives and to help them become independent adults.”

Article courtesy of The Long Eaton Advertiser

Footnote:-

Pete was baptised at the Oasis Christian Centre on Sunday 3rd July, along with another resident.

Fundraising News and Events

Garden Party Raises £135.00

Ernie and Avril Carver held a Garden Party on Sunday 31st July and donated the proceeds raised—£270.00 in total between the Diabetics Association and Canaan Trust.

Our sincere thanks to Ernie, Avril and their team of helpers who gave much pleasure to all who attended and enjoyed cakes and teas. Thanks too to all who supported this event.

If you would like to help us in any way with fundraising then please contact us—contact details are on the back page.

Thank you.

Garage Sale Coming Soon



Look out for details. Volunteers wanted to help.



Thank you to you all for your support during our time at Artesian House