

Headline NEWS



Good News is for sharing

David Shafik, CEO writes ...

Christian organisations are not immune from the temptation of putting positive spin on all that they do - as if the Life-of-Faith-in-Christ can only produce a continuous stream of uninterrupted and observable blessing on the outcomes of all efforts. Nevertheless you will enjoy reading the Good News below.

Charities take risks that other people cannot or will not and Keychange is no exception. Therefore funding is always a problem to be addressed and for which we look to Almighty God to supply but not without great effort in both activity and prayer. The Bible says "You have not because you ask not". In this, we recognise that the primary purpose of this Charity is to bring people to Jesus (legally, The Advancement of the Christian religion).

Please pray, for the continuous miracles of both God's redemption of human kind and the supply of our funding needs in all the projects run by Keychange.

We are taking big risks for Jesus. Join us in prayer and giving. Spin-doctors need not apply.

Good News from Wayside ...

Beatrice came to Wayside after a period of homelessness. Beatrice's relationship at home with her parents had deteriorated to the extent that she was asked to move out. Beatrice ended up "sofa-surfing" for about three months. After arrival at Wayside there was a time of practical support and intensive prayer through a number of difficulties from the staff group at Wayside and Beatrice's Christian parents, Beatrice was miraculously offered move-on accommodation from the local authority.

An extract from Beatrice's exit interview reads 'At Wayside someone believed in me and gave me a new and fresh start and that is significant to me.'

Joan has been resident at Wayside for around nine very challenging months. Joan had a number of complex needs. By the grace of God, she has maintained her place in the hostel. She has now progressed into one of our senior residents, secured a salaried position with a reputable local recruitment agency and has an option of being trained in employment law, recruitment, and other personnel related matters. This has enabled Wayside to forge a professional meaningful relationship with the agency.

Good News from Esther ...

A resident at Esther Community says, "*My situation before I was living here was quite tough. I was living on the streets of Exeter with my boyfriend. I was kicked out of a flat because my boyfriend was leaving dirty needles everywhere. He was also taking my money and used to hit me. I used to be on a high amount of speed and I was losing a lot of weight.*

Now since I've moved into a hostel called the Esther Community I have at last managed to keep my tenancy here which is good. I've come off the speed and got rid of my boyfriend which I've been wanting to

to do for a long time. The staff at Esther have helped me come over the problems that really upset me so it's a very big thank you to all the staff. I've just moved into the bedsits part of the Esther Community where I'm living in the same building as my mates, it will be more independent for me and I am hoping later to move into supported housing.

I have got a part time job at present at MOP (Meaningful Occupation Project) doing general cleaning – keeping areas clean and safe and running a Women's Only Cookery Group."

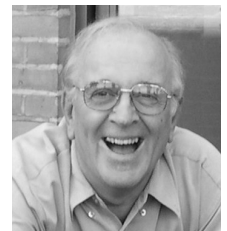
This is the extraordinary story of a young lady who came to the Esther Community from rough sleeping on the streets. At one time she was being moved on from hostel to hostel unable to hold down a tenancy. She is now hoping to go to Hillcroft House to do some of her GCSEs so she can look at other career options. This resident is also very excited about her move on to a one bed council flat which we expect will happen in the next month because she's been an outstanding tenant here at Esther. We also hope to ask *her* to return to help *us* with the cooking at our up-coming Christianity Explored course.

... and more Good News

Another compliment recently received – from the daughter of a resident at Rosset Holt *"... and I was especially delighted with the loving care and attention she receives from the management and the staff there... I have, in years past, been concerned that we should be able to find a place that would suit my very dear mother should she need it – I am delighted to know that we have. I hope that she will spend many happy years there."*

Chairman retires

Geoffrey Ellis retires as Chairman of Keychange on 31st December 2007 but will continue as a trustee. We give thanks to God for Geoffrey who has served so faithfully and tirelessly in this capacity for the last eleven years. *"Keychange is a team and without my co-directors and the generosity of our supporters over the years we would not exist, not forgetting the wonderful people who have been, and still are in the case of David Shafik, our Chief Executive. I know that Keychange will continue to thrive under God's guidance and the chairmanship of Seton Bennett."*



New Chairman takes up post



Seton Bennett CBE, our current Vice Chairman succeeds Geoffrey on 1st January 2008. We pray for Seton as he takes up this new post that God will bless and guide him and give him wisdom to hear our Master's voice in this new role. *"The biggest challenges we face are undoubtedly the development of our premises to meet the expectations of all who live in them and the extension of Keychange's outreach to the most vulnerable people on our streets. With our wonderful staff and a great group of trustees, I look forward to all that we shall do together."*

Keychange Conference 2007

This year's conference was again a time for staff, supporters and trustees to have fellowship and learn from each other but especially so from our speakers. The key speakers for our conference were Rev Dr Paul Blackham from All Souls, Langham Place, London and Rev Steve Hollinghurst, The Sheffield Centre, Church Army. Paul spoke to us on the life and death of Jesus and Steve addressed the issue of caring for an ageing population. Jamie Raven, Member of The Magic Circle entertained us with some 'magical moments'.

Keychange Conference 2008, 15th to 17th October: We shall be returning to High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts for next year's conference. You will be welcome to join us; please remember us in your prayers. More details will be available in the Spring newsletter.

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