

# Easter Newsletter 2010



Image courtesy of Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral

## The Passage 1980-2010

30 years of Helping Homeless people



## Dear Friends...

Easter is always a period of great renewal; when everything seems lost, seemingly from nowhere, there is suddenly a real sense of hope.

Because of the appalling weather this winter the day centre has been open at night for much of the time since before Christmas until nearly the end of February; providing a place to sleep each night for about 80 people who would otherwise be on the streets in freezing and life threatening conditions. We all look forward to the better spring weather.

2010 sees the 30th anniversary of the start of The Passage's mission to give care to the homeless. In this spirit of giving, I write to you to ask you to support our work to tackle the suffering of the homeless clients we work with. To give them that sense of hope and dignity; to give them a new beginning.

Many of you receiving this letter already generously support The Passage. I want to thank you so much for your help in such difficult times and I hope you feel able to continue your support.

There are many ways that existing supporters, and those of you finding out about The Passage for the first time, can help us. Remember also that The Passage is a registered charity and if you can please

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For every £1 you give we will receive an extra 25p from the Government.

**One of the most useful ways is in the form of a regular donation by standing order. This type of support is invaluable in helping us plan ahead; key given the current economic situation.**

## **Our values**

With your support The Passage, inspired by our Vincentian values, continues to help some of London's most needy. We offer non-judgemental advice and support and practical long term solutions to the complexities of homelessness. At the same time, The Passage strives to empower the whole person, help him or her to discover their own riches, their gifts, so that they become truly independent and able to lead their own lives.



Volunteers serve 250 meals daily

## **It's not just about housing**

Simon was sleeping rough for some time before he turned up at the door of The Passage. Not surprisingly he suffered from low self esteem and a lack of direction. With our help, in addition to addressing his housing needs, he was able to work on his CV and begin searching for jobs. It was not long before we discovered he had actually been a designer for a major car company and he is now working for an international design company.



An individual has space to plan his next step

Lukas arrived at the Passage in 2006. He suffered from alcoholism, poor physical health and had a history of mental health issues. With help from our mental health team he began to receive counselling and was referred to our drug and alcohol worker. Since then he has started a literacy course, construction training, and is now living in safe accommodation.



Staff help clients to look for jobs and work placements

Paula first arrived at The Passage in 2008. Sleeping rough had taken its toll and she felt she needed a way out. As well as housing advice, she was able to access our pre-employment training, develop her computer skills and, through our partnership with Barclays, she has now been accepted on an apprenticeship scheme.

## What your gift will achieve

The Passage always seeks to address the root causes of each client's homelessness in order to make a lasting change. All of these success stories, and countless more, would not have been possible without your help and support.

For The Passage to continue this service our staff and volunteers have to work week in and week out to ensure the day centre remains safe and welcoming; the residential accommodation is open every night, and that everyone is brought in during the severe cold weather.

**By giving regularly by standing order you will help us carry on our work throughout the course of the year.**

## What your gift will achieve

**£15 a month** pays for our trained staff to give one to one advice to one client each month.

**£50 a month** enables us to help people obtain duplicate proofs of their identity without which they cannot start their journey from the street.

**£100 a month** covers the costs of homeless people travelling to job interviews and work placements.

**£1,000 a month** will pay for the cost of group activities for clients in the day centre in the afternoons.

**£2,000 a month** will cover the cost of a drug and alcohol worker at the day centre.

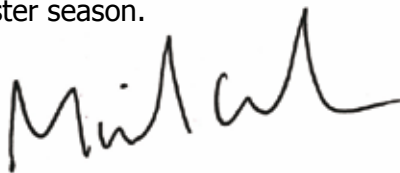
## Two dates for your diary

Our annual **Garden Party** is on **Wednesday 21st July 2010 at 5.30pm** in Westminster Abbey College Garden. This year's '**A Night under the Stars**' concert is on **Thursday 7th October 2010 at 7.30pm** in the Royal Festival Hall. Both were sold out last year so do book early.

Further details of both these events are enclosed.

The recession is having an impact on us all. However, at The Passage, we are determined to continue to meet the high demand for the services we provide. Your support is vital to us. Please give generously if you possibly can.

Thank you so much and best wishes for the Easter season.



Mick Clarke  
Chief Executive  
Easter 2010

### Quote from a supporter

"It's too easy to forget that in the 21st century homelessness remains a profound challenge for society... For me what makes The Passage special is the way it tackles homelessness by treating everyone as an individual"

**Sir Stuart Rose**

**Chairman, Marks & Spencer**

Founding Patron: Cardinal Basil Hume

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