

DASH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

HI AND WELCOME TO ANOTHER DASH NEWSLETTER.

GREAT NEWS that Huddersfield is about to welcome two Syrian families from the camps as part of the resettlement programme. In the past couple of weeks six Syrian families have been reunited with their fathers who were given leave to remain here earlier in the year. These families are living on one person's Jobseeker's Allowance and support from DASH, which isn't so great. We can give out Red Cross vouchers for £10 per person per week. The adults will get their JSA soon, but child benefits take two to three months to arrive. This means that Mr K and his family of five can look forward to living on around £ 112.40 and food parcels until at least the middle of January.

Our DASH 'year' ended on 30 November and we have had a lot of successes this year.

22 people got leave to remain, **14** of them clients who had been previously refused.

This is a record of which we feel very proud and it is only due to the dedication of staff and our many many volunteers that this is able to happen. In the words of Mr Grace,
“You've all done very well!”

ANOTHER RECORD we are proud of is that there are no asylum seekers or new refugees sleeping rough in Huddersfield and we think this is the only place in the country with a large asylum population to be able to claim this.

So how have we managed it?

By having a small but committed group of hosts willing to take people in at short notice, sometimes for long periods of time, and by having built a community where we help people and then expect them to help others.

Yo!

FOOD DROP

We are still providing fruit and veg for families affected by the cuts to child asylum benefit – a massive 16% cut to income in a one parent one child family – and to families on very low incomes. We hope that a relationship with Salendine Nook Sainsbury's will mean that we do not have to fund this ourselves after this week. Currently we are supporting around 50 children. Many thanks to Thelma, Theresa and Elaine for organising this.

OUR ESOL CLASSES go from strength to strength – six a week now and more planned, with home tutoring for clients too vulnerable to attend a group session. Thank you to our many ESOL tutors, who deliver a high quality service under difficult circumstances.

A TASTE OF FREEDOM

In case you haven't heard of it, this is our new fundraising venture.

We have a large number of asylum seekers and new refugees who were professional chefs in their own countries, and many others who are used to preparing meals for huge family occasions. Harnessing this, we have set up A Taste of Freedom,

where we cater events and dinner parties for a set donation. Check out the website on this. Many thanks to Helene, Salina, Suhaila and Aniza, the main movers and shakers.

ARK CHURCH

Many thanks to the Ark Church for their support in providing us with a rent and bill-free base for two days a week, help with lunch costs and lots of extra volunteers. They are inviting DASH children to their Christmas party on 12 December and providing shoeboxes of presents to be distributed with the food drop on Christmas Eve.

KPMG

Many thanks to KPMG who came with lots of volunteers to help us with sorting out our publicity, databases and budgets in November and with whom we hope to have a long and fruitful relationship.

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Surprise! Last week West Yorkshire Police donated a large number of shoeboxes of presents for DASH children. Thank you very much. Lucy is now on noticeboards in every police station in the county. Always wanted to be wanted.....

PARTY

NEW YEAR'S EVE 10.30-4

As always we have a party for the New Year and everyone is welcome to attend. This year the menu is:

Halal turkey

Stuffing

Sausages

Sprouts

Roast potatoes

Mashed potatoes
Roast parsnips
Carrots
Cranberry sauce

Christmas pudding
Cream

If you have any crackers left over from Christmas please bring them.

AND FINALLY.....

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS. NONE OF THIS WOULD BE HAPPENING WITHOUT YOU.

THANK YOU