



Dover Outreach Centre Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for what we try to do at the Outreach Centre, we appreciate this more than you know. We are also blessed to have very committed volunteers who give their time and energy on a regular basis, without them we could not open the doors. If you know anyone who might be interested, please get them to contact us.

The Centre has been very busy of late which is no surprise given that the Night Shelter is in operation. Within the peaceful and homely atmosphere of the shelter venues, guests are able to think of a better future. Given the space to do so, they make decisions and start to plan ahead. Two of the guests this week made the decision to go to rehab and we were able to help them secure places at Christian Centres in the Midlands – praise God and we continue to pray that they make the most of this opportunity which will be very challenging for them.

So, for those of you who like stats, in 2018:

- we helped to house 49 previously homeless people
- helped 18 previously unemployed people into work
- provided Mental Health Therapy for 63 people
- repatriated 5 Foreign Nationals back to their home Nations
- served more than 5000 breakfasts
- provided more than 1000 showers

In all we do and achieve we are acutely aware that life expectancy for our rough sleepers is only 46 years old, so we are never complacent, there is still much to do!!

Recently, Noel felt God tell him that we should stop begging for money. Writing letters and completing funding bids to organisations, schools and businesses can be very time consuming and often if successful there are often very stringent conditions as to how the funds are spent. We have been obedient to this (if a little concerned initially) and we have been rewarded by seeing God fulfil His promise to provide. Unfortunately, this does not mean that we are suddenly without need but the normal amount of private donations has increased enough to help to bridge the gap (left by no longer chasing for funding from organisations), however the future may prove a bit more difficult and our faith will, no doubt, be tested much further.

Winter Night Shelter

This year we are blessed to have Glenn as Coordinator and Paul as his part time assistant. They have been doing an amazing job. Guests numbers have steadily increased from the first week where the lowest number was 5 to now being at our full capacity of 15. Glenn has recently prepared his update to volunteers which we include part of below

Thank you all so very much, your time and dedication to the project is what is keeping the cogs going in making this the third years Dover Winter Night Shelter the best so far. When we embarked on the journey with our guests at the start of December, no one could have imagined the buzz of excitement we have experienced in these past few days. Having taken care of A.... and C.... in the shelter and them engaging with the Dover Outreach Centre and their partner agencies, in terms of forward progression. Both have only just yesterday embarked on their own brand-new journeys and gone into

a Residential Christian Rehabilitation Programme. An amazing piece of news to you all I am sure, and one that we will continue praying for their strength and courage as they enter a whole new and exciting world. And staying with positive agendas, and since my last update, S... as you well may know, secured a place with Emmaus after being referred by the DOC at the beginning of the month and has since blossomed as a result. J... and R... both managed to reunite with their partners and so remain housed. Two current guests are close to being housed with the help of Porchlight via DOC.

We have had in total now 29 referrals, 24 of whom have used the shelter for one night or more. And to top this all off, you volunteers have put 3096 hours of effort and tender loving care into the project..... We thank you and thank you again for everything you do for us. God bless you all and may we continue to bring joy, warmth, love and laughter to our guests and lessen their troubles over the next month and further onwards.

Dover Outreach Enterprise

The winter months unsurprisingly are the quietest of the year in term of availability of work. We are reviewing what to do in these times and looking at ways in which we employ folks. It is likely that future employees will go through a more formal structured programme to prepare them for the future with regular employers. We would value your prayers for this Enterprise and ask God for his wisdom in the way that this is developed.

We finish with Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.