

NORTH EAST
HELP LINK
Showing God's Love In Action



www.nehl-trust.org.uk

Charity No : 1100971

Newsletter

Spring 2010



Hopefully the worst winter we have endured for many years is over and everyone at NEHL can breathe a sigh of relief as we look forward to some warmer weather. The two most basic areas of need in which NEHL endeavours to help our clients are food and shelter. Needless to say,

shelter often proves the more difficult. There is encouraging news from Newcastle, where a number of clients have been successful in finding accommodation in hostels or flats with NEHL help. As has always been an important element of the work of the Trust, gaining the confidence of our clients and developing positive relationships with them has made it easier to understand their problems and be in a better position to help.

One young couple who have benefitted were suffering from alcohol problems and ill health. In December they found a flat which was made comfortable with the help of donations through the Help Link. The young man made a decision to give up drink but the young



lady was taken to hospital with liver failure. Our workers visited her in hospital and the young man continued to attend the kitchen on Sundays where he now regularly helps in setting up the tables before the kitchen and clearing up afterwards.

At the end of winter even the healthiest of people come down with various ailments as our "batteries run low". For those who attend our kitchens life is more draining than most people realise. It was a shock to hear of the death of

To let us know of any fundraising events etc, please contact Jean Cansfield (Secretary) with details of date, time and venue.

☎ 07788 983746

Terry, one of our long established regular clients at Middlesbrough. For many years Terry had fought the effects of drugs & alcohol and his death at the age of 34 years was very sad. His funeral was a private ceremony. Since Terry was very popular, his street friends were grateful that the clergy at St Columba's



Church in Middlesbrough arranged a memorial service. Our Middlesbrough kitchens are held on the car park of this church. A week before the service Brian, our Streetwork Manager, noticed that the grounds around the church were still suffering from the winter's rubbish. He quickly organised a tidy up team of those who attend the kitchen. They were more than willing to help and, in fact, enjoyed doing something practical and useful. The memorial service was attended by around 50 people, made up of representatives of several support agencies in the area, including NEHL, and Terry's friends from the streets.



It is a year ago that the new vehicle was used for the first time. A birthday cake was taken to the kitchen on 20th April to celebrate the event and this provided a talking point as well as a

Fund-Raising Activities

(Contact Jean Cansfield for further information on any item)

- Anne Chisholm will attempt to produce watercolour paintings of buildings, landscapes, flowers (NO people or animals!) from photographs or pictures.
- Pauline Blyth is willing to try to sell unwanted items on e-Bay.
- Lawn cutting (Sunderland Area)
Please contact George Carlyon
(0191) 5211217

sweet ending to a tasty, warming and nourishing meal.



Our thanks go again to everyone who continues to support us with donations of money, food and clothing. Among these are Sainsbury's of Washington and our bakery friends in Birtley. A recent story appeared in the Sunderland Echo about Barclay's who do so much for charities. We are grateful for permission to reproduce part of the article :

"The branch's Sunderland Contact Centre won the Chairman's Award for Team achievement of the year in recognition of its community activity..... As well as receiving a trophy and being shortlisted for the global version of the awards, the team has been given a cheque for £500 to donate to a charity of their choice. They had no hesitation in choosing the North East Helplink, which works with homeless people. It's a cause that Barclays staff have thrown their weight behind. So far, they have collected clothes and helped out at the charity's soup kitchen while also raising money to support its mobile van which provides food and advice to the homeless."

Contact Details

To donate tinned food, clothing, or blankets, contact Carl Heron (Chairman)
☎ (0191) 5368637 to arrange collection

To make a donation of money, contact Eric Southwick (Treasurer)

☎ (0191) 5812233

📞 (0191) 5813999

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