

the BARNABAS beat

Issue 7 - February 2024



Showing some love in February

Anyone else glad to see January come to an end? Barnabas welcomed February, the month of love, with open arms. As the days start to stretch out a little, and the evenings begin to get a little lighter we see everyone's mood begin to lift. Everyone is looking to make plans, as small signs of Spring appear...and with them, hope and excitement for the year ahead.

For the Barnabas Youth Work Team, February is a busy month of preparing, and then delivering our half term activities. Sandra, our Housing Support Worker is also full of busy, preparing properties for potential new residents. Have you ever wondered what it might be like to be a Support Worker? Sandra tells us all about it below!

Our focus over the coming months will be to offer a range of activities for young people during school holidays, and we will be looking to review our housing provision to best meet the needs of those young people experiencing housing crisis.

As always, our long term goal is to continue developing our Wellwood House site, to include spaces where young people can be kept safe - whether this be through housing, or through our youth work provision. Of course, all of this takes time, planning, patience and of course, funding.



There are lots of ways you can get involved with Barnabas:

If your children/young people engage in our services this ensures continuity of much needed services. Youth work can change lives, opening up a world of opportunity and our housing projects helps to keep some of society's most vulnerable safe.

Donate. Barnabas are a registered charity (no 1094570). Regular giving demonstrates true community support. Scan the QR code provided to donate via "wonderful". Every penny counts.

Come along to one of our events - we'd love to meet you.



February Half Term Antics

This half term we have delivered 2 programs for young people.

COMPUTING UNPLUGGED

With support from Morpeth Town Council, we teamed up with Thinky Dinky Do to offer 9-14 year-olds the chance to experiment with STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) Have you ever made a chocolate spread sandwich to demonstrate the detailed instructions required in computer coding and algorithms? Well, our group have and it was delicious! Young people also learned about Caesar Cyphers, the Fibonacci maths sequence, and made their own board games. An excellent 3 days of team work, fun, laughter and learning.



Morpeth
Town
Council



AMBITIOUS YOUTH

Our very own **AMBITIOUS YOUTH** project, for 16-19 year-olds, is all about giving young people the skills they need to get weekend/holiday jobs including barista training, food hygiene qualifications, and money management skills - but taking this a step further and getting them to approach their futures as entrepreneurs - covering social media and marketing a new business. We aim to offer work experience to the group over Easter, and provide opportunities to help cater and steward at festivals over the Summer months. It is hoped they will also help to develop and fundamentally manage, the cafe area of our very own "Garage". This group has the potential to become a fantastic social enterprise in its own right and is a really exciting prospect for young people in Morpeth. Watch this space for more news as the group create their own identity, branding and personality.



Molly from More in Morpeth providing a training session on Social Media



Meet our Housing Support Worker



A day in the life of Sandra

The lovely Sandra has worked for Barnabas for 20 years. She is skilled to provide housing support, information, advice, and guidance, and is a marvel at making sense of the welfare system and ensuring that young people access the right services. Over the years, Sandra has helped the Charity to support over 330 young people within our Supported Housing project for 16 to 25 year olds. We thought we'd give you a taste of what it's like to be in Sandra's shoes for a day.

"Today is Monday, and today is a busy day! I started my morning by calling at one of our properties to meet a young person who is moving on to independence. The young person helped me with the final clean up, and we carried out a property check together before he handed his keys back. A great result for this young person.

After this, I carried out an interview with a young person whose first language was Spanish. This was a fun start to the interview with lots of hand gestures and pictures, but we managed to get the information we needed to take the referral forward.

Next on my list was a support appointment with an ex-resident who is still accessing support through our Advice project. Today we looked at his utilities, specifically how to manage his accounts, and help sustain his tenancy.

Where to next? Another one of our properties to meet up with a young person getting ready to move to independence - then a chance to prepare one of our void rooms for a new resident.

Lastly, I took the chance to catch up on emails to other professionals, and respond to 2 new referrals for our supported accommodation project".



WHAT'S ON

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024
6pm, The Garage, Wellwood House

Open to all, this is a great opportunity to hear about our work in the 22/23 financial year - and also learn about our plans for the future.



AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**CEOSleepout[®] THURSDAY 16
MAY 2024**

FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY ACROSS THE UK



For the 3rd year, Barnabas will be partnering with CEO Sleepout and other local charities, to raise awareness of poverty and homelessness in the UK. We'll soon be offering you all the opportunity to join us for a night under the stars at Lilidorei, Alnwick Garden's magical kingdom, where you get to experience what its like to sleep outside, subject to the elements. Its a wonderful event, with inspiring first hand accounts of homelessness, determination and personal triumphs.



Be sure to follow us on social media for latest news on this, and other events. Or drop us an email to admin@barnabasne.org.uk to express your interest.



Visit our website

For more information visit our website by scanning the QR code provided, or call us anytime on 01670 517721 to find out more.



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