

AUTUMN NEWS 2025

WYCOMBE
HOMELESS
CONNECTION



READ DANIEL'S
SHELTER STORY ON PAGE 8

TRAINING
STARTS IN
OCTOBER

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HELP US KEEP PEOPLE SAFE THIS WINTER

£17 can help buy supplies needed for each shelter guest

£48 can provide an emergency bed for a night

£375 can help someone move from the shelter into a home

PLEASE GIVE TODAY



SCAN TO GIVE



www.wyhoc.org.uk/donate



01494 447699

Mon to Fri: 9am to 4pm



Post a cheque:

Wycombe Homeless Connection
Oakley Hall, 8 Castle Street,
High Wycombe HP13 6RF

All statistics are correct at the time of printing.
Names may be changed and stock photos used
to protect the privacy of our clients.

PLEASE *pray*

FOR THE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Pray for our staff and volunteers as we prepare for the winter night shelter. Pray that together we bring safety and kindness to people who would otherwise have to sleep on the street this winter.

Pray that our guests who stay in the shelter would experience God's love in action and that we can help them find homes for good.

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO NEED OUR HELP

Pray for people across south Buckinghamshire who don't have a safe home and are forced to sleep on the street, sofa-surf or sleep in their cars or other unsafe places.

Pray also for people who are at risk of losing their homes.

FOR OUR WORK

Pray for our frontline staff and volunteers running our support centre and drop-in sessions, answering our helpline and more.

GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY PRAYER REQUESTS



01494 447699

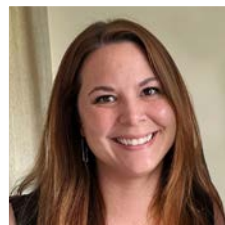


communications@wyhoc.org.uk

A MESSAGE FROM ANGELA DACRE, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Dear friends

Do you ever feel that homelessness is too big of a problem? Can we really make that much of a difference?
With your help we do. And we will continue to do so!



Our support work and homelessness prevention work is year-round. However, our winter night shelter has a huge impact at a particularly dangerous time of year for people to be sleeping rough. This year, 23 of our night shelter guests moved into safe accommodation before it closed at the end of March.

I was privileged to hear many of our guest's stories as we chatted over an evening meal. It struck me how different each person's experience was.

It reminded me that homelessness is something that happens to people. It's not who they are. It's not what they chose. And it's not where anyone should stay.

The Winter Night Shelter gives our guests breathing space. When someone is safe, well fed, warm and dry they can come out of "survival mode". Giving them a chance to work together with our team towards finding safe and sustainable homes.

I'm immensely proud to be part of a team who work alongside brilliant volunteers and I'm looking forward to our next shelter which opens in January 2026. It saddens me that it's needed, and I hope for a day that it isn't. Until then we will keep working to make sure that no-one has to risk their life by being forced to sleep on the street at the bleakest time of the year.

Join us in bringing help and hope this winter!

Angela Dacre, Communications Officer



**TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND HELP US SPREAD THE WORD.
DOWNLOAD OUR CENTREFOLD POSTER AND DISPLAY IT TODAY!**

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER 2026

WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?



Our winter night shelter provides a life-saving warm space for people who would otherwise be forced to sleep on the street from January to March.

Once again, we have teamed up with seven churches across High Wycombe. They offer their buildings one night of the week each while the shelter is open. For 2026 we are delighted to be collaborating with venues we know very well and also some new ones! The most up to date venue information can be found on our website: www.wyhoc.org.uk/night-shelter

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

A TYPICAL NIGHT AT THE SHELTER



Our evening team, including our volunteer driver, arrive to set up the venue, get everything ready and have a briefing.

Shelter guests are welcomed, signed in and allocated a bed. Hot drinks and biscuits are offered.

Everyone sits together and shares a hot home-cooked meal prepared by our volunteer cooks.

Our guests can choose to play games, read the paper, chat or get an early night. Some venues offer hot showers and laundry facilities.

A smaller team of volunteers stay overnight, taking it in turns to sleep and supervise.

The morning team arrive to offer our guests a simple breakfast.



Guests are offered food and drinks to take away as they leave and the volunteer team pack up.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER TRAINING STARTS IN OCTOBER!

WE NEED YOU: TO VOLUNTEER



CAN YOU DO ONE OF THESE ROLES?



SHIFT LEADERS

Make sure shifts run smoothly and safely, referring to and updating the logbook. Carry out safety briefings, assign roles and lead the volunteer team.



COOKS

Cooks and assistant cooks whip up a two-course meal for up to 22 people each evening, including a vegetarian option. They plan, shop for, prepare and serve the food then clean up afterwards. (WHC can pay their expenses).



HOSTS

Set up and down the venue, socialise with our guests and provide a warm welcome. Pitch in with cleaning the venue, serve hot drinks and do other tasks as required. As a team they also ensure that their shift is being run safely.



DRIVERS

Use the van to get all of our essential equipment to and from each venue. With help they pack the van, and ensure that important items, like the shelter logbook and keys, get delivered to the right places at the right time.



LAUNDRY

Wash and dry bedding and towels to keep them fresh and clean for our shelter guests. Either at home or using a launderette.

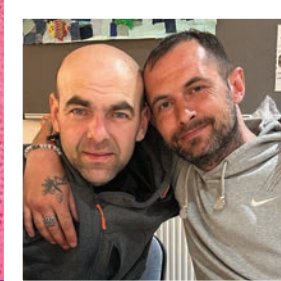


FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE AND
SIGN UP TODAY!

www.wyhoc.org.uk/night-shelter



WYCOMBE
HOMELESS
CONNECTION



VOLUNTEER
AT OUR



WINTER
NIGHT
SHELTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2026

SIGN UP TODAY!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING STARTS IN OCTOBER



www.wyhoc.org.uk



01494 447699

Reg. charity no.: 1156211

HEAR FROM A VOLUNTEER!

Interested in volunteering at the Winter Night Shelter but aren't sure if it's for you? Read Sarah's story...

"Helping at a Winter Night Shelter was something I'd thought about for years. It always came to me just before Christmas or when the weather turned cold in January – but it was always too late to sign up. Last year, I spotted a Facebook post in good time and jumped at the chance.

I signed up straight away and completed the training. I'd been living in Wycombe for two years, but this was the first time I realised we had a Night Shelter here.

Before my first shift, I sat in my car outside the venue messaging a friend about how anxious I felt.

I suddenly realised I had no idea what to expect. I took a deep breath, opened the door, and walked in. Within five minutes, all that nervousness disappeared. It was the first night of the season, and James (WHC's CEO) and Tara (Services Manager) were there to welcome us. They were calm and reassuring, and the volunteer team was lovely.

The guests arrived, the evening ran smoothly, and I left with a huge sense of relief – and excitement!

From then on, I volunteered once a week for the full three months of the Night Shelter season. I enjoyed every shift, got to know the guests and other volunteers, and every evening brought a positive experience.

I loved it so much that when I saw a job advertised at Wycombe Homeless Connection, I applied – and now I'm their Community and Events Fundraising Officer!"



DANIEL'S STORY

Things were spiraling out of control for Daniel. He had relocated to Wycombe in early December, excited to begin a new job in a new place, but his start date kept getting delayed.

Daniel's reserves were drained fast with basic living expenses. Without the expected income from his employment and no local support network he was running out of options.

It wasn't long before Daniel faced the stark reality that he was going to have to sleep on the street.

Daniel did everything he could to help himself. He contacted the council but wasn't eligible for help as he hadn't been in the area long enough. It made him feel very low. Next he visited the Job Centre where he was told about us and our Support Centre. Daniel spoke to one of our Support Workers and he was in the winter night shelter that same night.

Our team worked with Daniel, listening to his hopes, exploring his options, and making a plan. Daniel decided to move back to his home town as he could get Universal Credit while he got back on his feet.

We booked and paid for his transport and linked him up with a local shelter where he stayed briefly until his new accommodation was available.

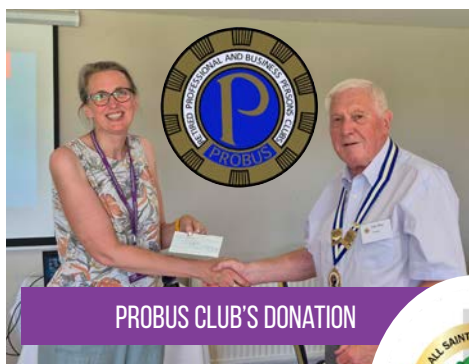
Daniel is now happily working, studying and looking forward to the future. When asked about his experience he said:

“ *The volunteers in Wycombe were amazing. They would listen and chat with you and didn't criticize. They stay with you overnight. It means you can sleep well because you know that you are safe and no one is going to steal from you. It's a different level.* ”



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you all!



GET IN TOUCH TO LET US KNOW YOUR CHRISTMAS
PLANS OR TO REQUEST A SPEAKER

01494 447699

contact@wyhoc.org.uk



COMING SOON TO A BUS NEAR YOU...

We are excited to share that we are runners up in Carousel's "Brand the Bus" competition and will be receiving an advertising across six of their buses.

Thank you to everyone who voted and to the panel of judges who awarded us this hugely beneficial prize.



ANNUAL SHOWCASE *You're invited!*

Join us for a special evening where we reflect on the year gone by, celebrate the difference our community has made together, and look ahead to what's next.

We welcome our keynote speaker, Jacob Dimitriou, Faith and Communities Rough Sleeping Adviser to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Jacob works to support strong partnerships between local authorities and faith and community groups as part of the Government's commitment to get the country back on track to ending rough sleeping.



Tuesday 21 October



High Wycombe Guildhall, HP11 2BJ



7 - 9pm

KEEP UP WITH ALL OUR EVENTS

www.wyhoc.org.uk/events



PLEASE, GIVE GENEROUSLY TO OUR SHELTER APPEAL



Street homelessness is life-threatening and that risk increases dramatically during the winter. We offer 12 - 14 beds every night for three months to people who have no other options.

£17

can provide essential supplies needed for our shelter guests

£48

can provide an emergency bed for the night

£57

can provide dinner and breakfast for all our shelter guests each day

£150

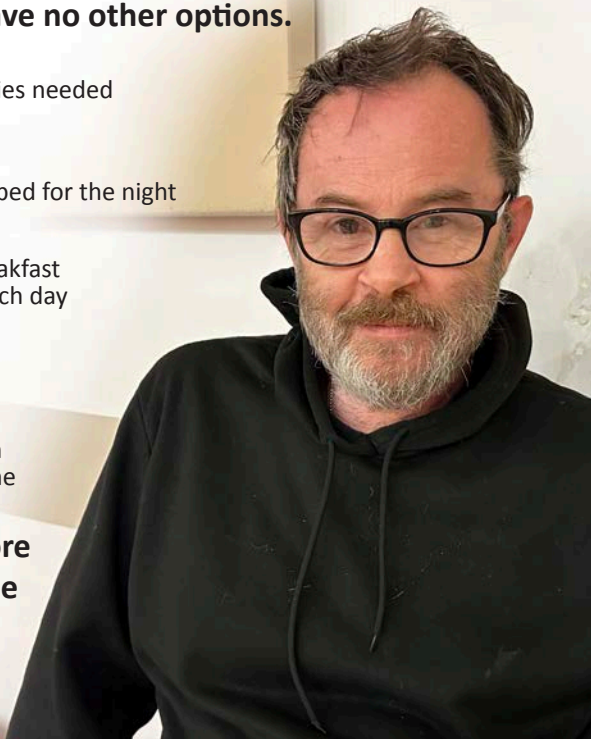
can keep our homelessness helpline open for a day

£375

can help someone move on from the shelter into a home

Your gift will help us to help more people like Huw, who spent time in our shelter last year and is now thriving in his home.

*Your gift will be used where need is the greatest.



YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES US TO HELP THE PEOPLE WE SERVE TO GET THE HELP THAT THEY NEED

www.wyhoc.org.uk/appeal



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Reg. charity no.: 1156211

SCAN TO GIVE