

WINTER NEWS 2025



**THE SHELTER
IS OPEN!**

WELCOMED IN FROM THE COLD

WINTER APPEAL

PLEASE GIVE TODAY



£24.50 Can go towards a welcome pack for a guest in our shelter

£75 Can provide dinner and breakfast for our all our shelter guests each day

£232 Can help someone move from the shelter into a home



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

PLEASE *pray*

FOR THE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Give thanks that after months of planning and preparation the winter night shelter opened on 6 January and our guests are off the street.

FOR OUR WORK

Give thanks for over 300 volunteers who are making the shelter happen, answering our hotline, sorting donations, helping with office admin and much more!

FOR THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Pray that we can help our guests find homes so no one has to return to the street.

CHURCH LINK

The logo for Church Link, featuring the words 'CHURCH LINK' in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. To the right of the word 'LINK' are two interlocking chain links, one purple and one teal.

Are you interested in being a direct connection between WHC and your church? Sharing our news, opportunities and prayer requests with your congregation?
If so please get in touch:



01494 447699



communications@wyhoc.org.uk

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Dear friends

On Christmas Eve, we were sorting donations for the night shelter including equipment and supplies. We put bed packs together, organised food supplies and filled breakfast packs.

Knee deep in porridge pots and pillows, I found myself feeling quite emotional. It's connected to what we've said during training for shelter volunteers: this is truly a community project, in a very special way.

While there are temporary accommodation schemes up and down the country, projects like our winter night shelter are different. It brings together hundreds of volunteers, churches offering their buildings, businesses helping with laundry and food, and countless generous people donating money, goods and their time.

By the time you read this, our shelter will be open. Our guests will have been coming into warm rooms, taking coats off and putting bags down, surrounded by the smell of food being prepared for them. They'll be welcomed by volunteers trained to provide a safe space.

Of course, ideally no one would be sleeping on the street and where they are, they would be quickly offered housing. As ever, our important work of preventing homelessness continues. We will be making sure our guests have access to healthcare and helping them to find a home.

I offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has given their time, gifts and money to make this happen. Please do keep giving.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Boulton".

James Boulton, CEO



SORTING FOOD FROM BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



AN EVENING AT THE NIGHT SHELTER



Before I joined the staff team at WHC, I volunteered at the shelter and was particularly struck by the friendly atmosphere.

After a five year break, we've re-opened the shelter and I visited one of our new venues, The Church of the Good Shepherd in Widmer End. I had spoken at the church, encouraging people to volunteer so it was great to come and see the shelter in action!



ANGELA DACRE, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The evening volunteer team had laid out beds, sorted towels and hygiene packs and were getting dinner ready. Ten people who otherwise would have been rough sleeping were offered a bed. They were transported to the church in taxis.

It was a cold, damp and dreary night. One guest told me it was the kind of weather that "seeps into your bones." She was freezing and pleased to be coming into a warm building and immediately be offered a hot drink and biscuits.

Dinner was a highlight! Guests sat with volunteers and shared a hearty meal. Stories were shared, interests discussed and the hot food went down a treat.

***“You're good people
doing a good thing.”***

~ Night shelter guest



While volunteers did the dishes, our guests could wash, relax, get new clothing and arrange to see our support workers about their situation.

It was lovely to see that our guests' preferences were noted and catered for. Some guests know each other and were offered beds near friends. One volunteer had learned that a particular guest likes to do crosswords so he was ready with a pen and paper and they sat together, figuring out answers.

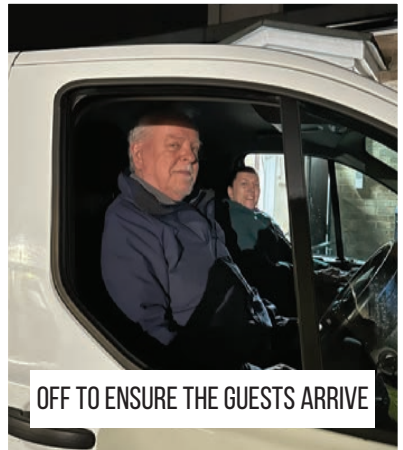
After the washing up had been done, the lights were dimmed and everything was going quiet, I was getting ready to go home and a guest said to me:

“Where would we be without good people in the world like yourselves?”

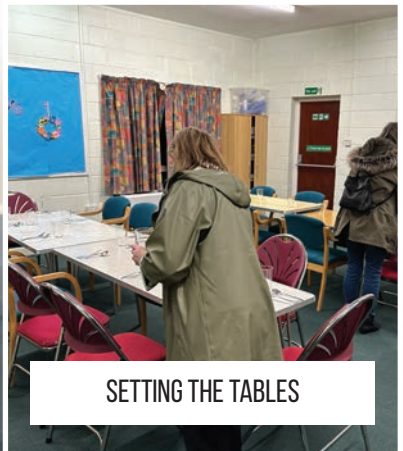
It was a humbling moment. The shelter simply wouldn't be happening with our volunteers and supporters. Thank you.



GETTING HOT DRINKS READY



OFF TO ENSURE THE GUESTS ARRIVE



SETTING THE TABLES

PLUG-IN 2024

YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT



Plug-In is our weekly drop in for people who are street homeless. It ran from April to December in 2024.



206

ITEMS OF CLOTHING GIVEN OUT



38

SESSIONS TOOK PLACE



44

CLIENTS USED THE SERVICE



19

MOST VISITS BY ONE CLIENT



157

HEALTHY MEALS PROVIDED



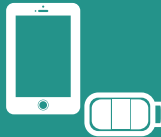
101

HOT SHOWERS TAKEN



46

LOADS OF LAUNDRY WASHED



60

TELEPHONE CHARGES DONE



27

VOLUNTEERS RAN THE SERVICE

Thank you to the Plug-In volunteers!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are so pleased that over 300 new and returning volunteers signed up to help at the winter night shelter.

Did you know that we have lots of other opportunities to get involved to support our work year-round?

We need admin support in the office, people to help in our support centre, at events and much more. There are regular roles and others on an ad-hoc basis.

Take a look at our website which is regularly updated:

www.wyhoc.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities



You are invited...

SHELTER CELEBRATION

Join us for an informal gathering to thank our volunteers and mark the end of the winter night shelter.

When: Saturday 12 April 2025

Time: 12 - 3pm

Where: The HUB, Union Baptist Church, Easton Street, High Wycombe HP11 1NJ





AT HOME

ANY TIME!



THE BIG SLEEPOUT IS BACK!

Our fantastic fundraisers will be swapping their bed for a sleeping bag in solidarity with people who are homeless. It's happening while our guests are safe and warm in our winter night shelter.

ADAMS PARK

15 FEBRUARY 2025



There are **TWO** ways to take part.

On Saturday 15 February our supporters will be setting up their cardboard shelters in the stands at Adams Park, the home of Wycombe Wanderers FC.



Others are taking part "at home" in a place and on a date of their choosing. This option can be done when it suits you or your group best.

SIGN UP TO SLEEP OUT SO OUR GUESTS CAN SLEEP IN

www.wyhoc.org.uk/bigsleepout2025



If sleeping out isn't for you, you can support our fundraisers here:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/whcbigsleepout2025



A LASTING LEGACY



A gift in your will can help stop the harm homelessness does.

Including a gift in your will allows your values and beliefs to live on in the changed lives of the people we serve.

You will ensure there is zero tolerance to leaving people on the street, that there are enough homes for everyone and that we will be here to do everything we can to prevent anyone ever losing their home.

We are grateful for any gift you choose to leave us after providing for those you want to.

Find out more on our website:

wyhoc.org.uk/legacy



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAILS



KEEP IN TOUCH



Keep in touch with our regular email updates which we send every few weeks with inspiring stories, news, prayer requests, vacancies, opportunities to give or volunteer, and more.

wyhoc.org.uk/keep-in-touch

You can unsubscribe at any time.

KEEP UP WITH ALL OUR EVENTS

www.wyhoc.org.uk/events

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

01494 447699
contact@wyhoc.org.uk
wyhoc.org.uk

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT THANK YOU ALL!

We are so encouraged by the generosity of our supporters! Here we celebrate just some of the wonderful groups, individuals and organisations who are helping to end homelessness.



COOK IN BEACONSFIELD FOR DONATING FOOD FOR OUR PLUG-IN GUESTS



THE FOODSERVICE COMPANY



RH AMAR'S INGREDIENTS FOR HOT MEALS AT THE NIGHT SHELTER



PAUL AND JANET'S RUBY WEDDING CELEBRATION



BUSINESS CONNEXION AND CHARTERHOUSE LLP'S CHARITY GOLF DAY



GRANT GIVING ORGANISATIONS WHO SUPPORT OUR OUTREACH WORK, THE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER AND OUR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION WORK



WARM BLANKETS



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS BY
BUCKS SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE,
THE DOWNLEY DESCANTS AND
WYCOMBE ORPHEUS MALE VOICE CHOIR



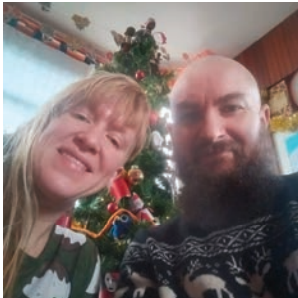
HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL'S
HARVEST GOODS



BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL'S HUGE DONATION OF FOOD AND TOILETRIES



JASMINE AND JESSICA, NAME THE BEAR
WINNERS AT THE BOURNE END FUN NIGHT



LUNA BARGE BAND'S CHRISTMAS
LIVESTREAM



25 MEMORY FOAM MATTRESSES DONATED BY ANTAC SUPPORT SERVICES

TAKE ON AN EPIC CHALLENGE AND HELP STOP HOMELESSNESS



- Choose from our exciting **NEW** range of activities including marathons, walks, hiking trails and more!

We have charity places in hundreds of local and national events.

We'll help you with fundraising and you get a **FREE** named WHC t-shirt.

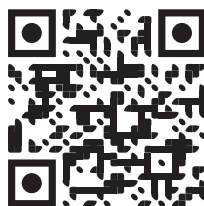


**CHECK OUT THE FULL RANGE ON OUR WEBSITE
AND GRAB YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

 01494 447699

 contact@wyhoc.org.uk

 wyhoc.org.uk/challenge-events



Reg. charity no.: 1156211



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**