



Mustard Tree
Supporting the homeless and marginalised

...and maybe a little money, food, clothing or furniture too? Please.

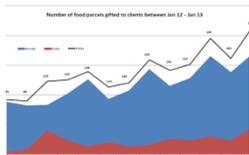
Tel: 0161 228 7331

mustardtree.co.uk

Creating choice and opportunity for people who are homeless and marginalised

eNews Letter March 2013 No.1

Food Provision



During 2012 we provided over 20,000 meals for those accessing our Soup Runs and our life skills programmes - Freedom and Dignity. Demand for emergency food parcels from our Food Banks in Ancoats and Eccles more than doubled during 2012. We are grateful for the support of FC United Manchester fans who in February responded generously to our appeal to replenish rapidly reducing food stores. At one home game they collected an equivalent of 6 weeks of food parcels and donated to Mustard tree. A food parcel will feed an individual or a family and costs us on average £10 and we are currently supporting over 200 individuals or families each month. Please consider supporting us to feed those who are hungry.

Employment



Last year we supported 40 individuals to access a work placement with local businesses, including John Lewis, Trafford Centre and Northwards Housing. We are also delighted that 30 individuals have moved into employment as a result of our support. One of our fantastic Freedom Project graduates, Anthony, has gained employment through the rail company TransPennine Express. Working as a Customer Service Assistant, Anthony commented, 'I love my job. I now go to work with a smile'. His line manager, Emma said, 'Anthony's fitted in really well. He's very good with customers and a pleasure to have on the team'.

Eccles Branch



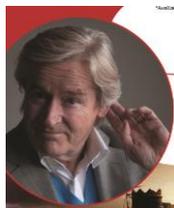
Congratulations Ian on reaching your first anniversary as manager of our Mustard Tree, Eccles Branch... you are doing a fabulous job! The base is open 6 days a week, operating as a shop (selling & gifting clothing, furniture and household goods), Food Bank, referral and advice centre, and most importantly, a community for volunteers, clients and customers. All of the proceeds from the shop are fed back into serving those most in need. Ian is himself a graduate of our Freedom Project and is passionate about ensuring we are able to continue to give a 2nd, 3rd 4th... chance to those who find themselves homeless or marginalised.

StandFirm



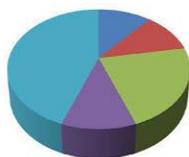
An important part of Mustard Tree vision is the launching of Social Enterprises as a means of giving employment opportunities to those coming through our Freedom & Dignity programmes. StandFirm CIC was established by Mustard Tree nearly 2 years ago and Mike, Ops & Development Manager, writes; 'We are entering a very exciting period as we receive the keys to a building on Poland Street, which will become a very valuable Recycling Centre focusing on re-using and recycling household items that would normally head straight for the landfill tip. Come and join us in this venture as there is still lots to do!'

Events



Check out our fundraising and awareness evening, Saturday 16th March. We are very pleased to invite you to an audience with William Roache MBE (aka Ken Barlow). Tickets cost £10 and are available from www.mustardtree.eventbrite.co.uk. The evening, 19.00 – 21.45 will include a raffle of original artwork by our own Graham (Mustard Tree Creative Programmes Manager), an auction of signed Coronation St photograph, and coffee & cake. William will be talking about his life and will be answering questions from the audience on the night. The event is to raise funds for Mustard Tree. We are grateful for the additional evening sponsorship from The Message Trust, Barclays Bank, and Tandem Theatre Company.

The Future



Mustard Tree is currently facing a financial challenge. Both the recession and Welfare Reform are driving up the demand for the support and interventions we offer, and our running costs have increased significantly over the past 12 months. We have restructured and introduced efficiency savings wherever we can, and regrettably we have had to make redundancies. We are therefore appealing to our many friends and supporters to stand with us at this time as we seek to increase our monthly income as a matter of some urgency. We have a target of raising 50k by the end of March (29k achieved so far), and then a target of 5k of additional income every month. For further information on how to donate please visit www.mustardtree.org.uk, or email 'communications@mustardtree.co.uk' Thank you. Adrian CEO

"The one thing they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor" Gal 2:10

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