



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



Tel: 0161 228 7331 [mustardtree.org.uk](http://mustardtree.org.uk)

## Creating choice and opportunity for people who are homeless and marginalised

### eNewsletter July 2013 No.5

#### 'Simple Gifts'



We are holding a summertime concert which promises to be a delightful evening of music and song held in the beautiful setting of St Ann's Church, St Ann's Square. We are so pleased to be partnering with St Ann's in order to raise the profile of those most in need.

You are invited to experience the beautiful sound of Kathryn West, lyric soprano and the choir of St Ann's Church in this one off concert aimed at raising money for Mustard Tree. With tickets at £10 a head (£5 student concession) we would very much value your support to help make this a great success and a lasting legacy. Tickets available from:

[www.mustardtreesimplegifts.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.mustardtreesimplegifts.eventbrite.co.uk)

#### Drama Group



Many congratulations to Fran and Simon who were married at the beginning of June. Fran is Artistic director of Tandem Theatre and she leads Mustard Tree drama group which meets every Wednesday at 4.00 - 5:30pm. Fran writes "I have led the Mustard Tree drama group for the last 3 years. It is amazing to see how creative and imaginative people can be even when they face such hardship. It's also great to see participants grow in confidence, self-esteem and in their acting ability. It is a privilege to be a part of the process!" Several of the group, working with the charity 'Acting on Impulse', were involved in shooting a music video on the subject of homelessness... the video has gone viral! [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNjBIUWaq](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNjBIUWaq)

#### 'Thank you'



During the summer months we are grateful for the support that we receive from teams of volunteers from local businesses (and sometimes not so local), who join us for a day in order 'to make a difference'. Decorating our music studio, the 1<sup>st</sup> floor loos, transforming a StandFirm office suit, building vertical gardens, sorting stock, building furniture, painting exterior walls, building a water garden and painting the dining area floor are just some of the activities undertaken by teams from Barclays, RBS, Vodafone, Virgin, and Lloyds TSB as an expression of their Corporate Social Responsibility. With more to come we are grateful for every helping hand we receive! The teams seem to enjoy their day with us and they go away with a much greater awareness of the importance of our work.

#### Well done!



June 27<sup>th</sup> we hosted an art exhibition for some of our students... amazing! The top floor was transformed into a spectacle of colour and beauty. With live music, drama, a film showing and refreshments, it was a real treat for the 150 or so attended. The personal stories of transformation for many of the artists capture the spirit and mission of Mustard Tree. We are so proud of their efforts both inside and outside of the art studio. The exhibition remains in place for the month of July, so if you missed the night you would be most welcome to come and have a look at your leisure.

#### New Look



If you drive past our Ancoats base you can't help but see the new banners that draw attention to our presence on Oldham Road. With running costs continuing to grow it is important that we attract customers to our shops in Ancoats and in Eccles. The good news is that we have had a couple of the best retail months in our history. In addition the amount of food, clothing and furniture that we gift to those in need has also been at an all-time high. We currently gift around 300 food parcels, 800 items of clothing and 50 pieces of furniture a month.

Please continue to donate your pre-loved furniture, clothing and household items to us. These donations are an important source of income for us.

#### Car Boot Sales!



A great way to support Mustard Tree over the summer.

Do you visit car boot sales? Have you ever participated in one? Would you consider entering a car boot sale on behalf of Mustard Tree? We have all the stock already boxed up and ready to go, all you need to do is pick up the stock from us, select a car boot sale of your choice, set up and sell, sell, sell! This is a practical and fun way to make a difference for us and to raise vital finance. Why not organise with some friends or work colleagues... perhaps get a competition going to see who can raise the most in sales. We will happily award a trophy to the team that sells the most.

To find out more, contact Fiona; [fiona@mustardtree.co.uk](mailto:fiona@mustardtree.co.uk)

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

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