



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



Tel: 0161 228 7331 | mustardtree.org.uk

Creating choice and opportunity for people who are homeless and marginalised

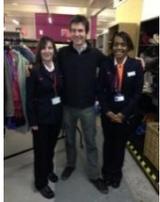
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Welcome Peter



We'd like to introduce Mustard Tree's newest staff member. Peter has been appointed to the role of [Freedom Project](#) Coordinator and is with us three days a week. The Freedom Project is our work readiness and life skills programme that is aimed at those who have additional barriers to moving on in life, such as homelessness, mental health issues, addiction recovery or a criminal record. Peter states that 'I delight in helping others overcome past negative life choices so as to find purpose and reach their potential. I come from a large working class family of seven children, and have had first-hand experience of what poverty is like'. Welcome to the family, Peter!

Employment



This year Mustard Tree has continued to build links with local businesses to develop employment opportunities for our clients. Last month, train operator [First TransPennine Express](#) (FTPE), hosted a recruitment session for our ['Ready for Work'](#) club clients. 13 candidates attended and shared with FTPE staff about their experience for work. At the end of the session all 13 were offered roles within the company. Antony Belchem - FTPE Customer Service Standards Manager - commented "My team were blown away with the enthusiasm of the candidates. Truly inspiring." One of our clients, Sharon, now working for FTPE, said "This job means a lot. It's built my self-esteem and allows me to pay my way and be part of society."

Harvest Donations



The rising costs of food and fuel combined with low or static incomes, high unemployment, changes to benefits and benefit sanctions, are causing more and more people to be referred to foodbanks for help. From Ancoats and from Eccles, we continue to give around 300 food parcels a month, with each parcel supplying either an individual or a family with 3-5 days of food. In addition we prepare approximately 3,500 hot meals a year for our Soup Run guests and 15,000 hot meals a year for our day time clients and volunteers. This makes a grand total of approximately 32,500 meals provided over the past 12 months. So, we are very grateful to every individual, every business, every church group and every school for the donations that we have received from various harvest festival celebrations and from several Christmas events. With your support we will continue ensure food is prepared and shared with those in need.

StandFirm



Our Recycling Centre on Poland Street continues to offer training and employment opportunities for our clients as well as developing an expertise in waste management and recycling. At the end of November we were all so proud when [StandFirm](#) won the inaugural Yunus Award for 8Social Business from Salford University. This prestigious award recognised the employment opportunities we seek to offer to marginalised individuals from communities where deprivation is a feature, and the fact that StandFirm reinvests all profits back into the community to maximise the social value accrued and to ensure a lasting return on investment. "We want to share our vision and hope, and how our work helps to transform and bring joy to those in need." Mike Green. To read more about this, please [click here](#).

Manchester Sleepout



Organisational Development Manager, Soraya took part in the Manchester Sleepout, organised by the [Booth Centre](#) - a fantastic day centre that offers activities, advice and support to homeless people in Manchester. Soraya states 'Whilst I have learnt so much since joining Mustard Tree, I realised that I had absolutely no idea what it was like to sleep on the streets. To help me better understand what homeless people face, and to raise money for the Booth Centre, I wanted to take part in the sleepout'. After the sleepout, Soraya put pen to paper and blogged about her experience, if you would like to read what she went through, please visit her [blog](#).

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