

Anchor House £9.3 Million Appeal for New Facilities

Anchor House, the diocese's homeless charity, has launched an appeal for funds to build a new 21st century fit-for-purpose complex, which will allow it to work even more effectively on breaking the cycle of homelessness.

The 50 year-old facility, based in Canning Town the third most deprived borough in England, was initially a seamen's hostel which was converted into a homelessness centre over 20 years ago. In the last few years, with new direction and a revised focus, it has become a successful and award winning residential life-skills centre accommodating up to 180 single homeless people each year and addressing the root causes of homelessness through training, education, volunteering and personal rehabilitation. However, it now faces the need for urgent redevelopment to be able to take its vital work forward.

The ambitious fund raising appeal was launched in October at an event at the Inner Temple in London. Among those at the launch were Bishop Thomas, who made the opening address, Mgr John Armitage, Vicar General and Anchor House Chairman, and many of the appeal's patrons and supporters including the Archbishop of Southwark, TV presenter Julie Etchingham, actress Barbara Windsor MBE, and John Bird MBE, founder of The Big Issue.

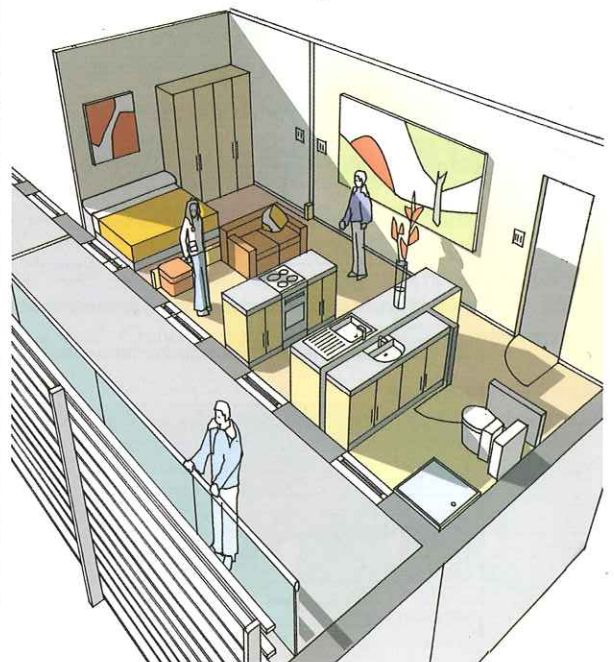


Anchor House Director Keith Fennell says "The development will include new training, learning and recreation facilities, a multi-faith room, as well as 25 new transitional move-on flats (artist's impression right) to help residents make a sustainable transition back to independent living. It is about helping the local community and empowering our residents to turn their lives around, pull themselves out of deprivation and live an independent, healthy and fulfilling life. Our waiting list for new residents grows longer every day, but this development will enable us to support thousands more people in the community in the years ahead."



Mgr John Armitage, Anchor House chairman, says "We are a small charity with limited resources operating in one of the most deprived boroughs, but the results are astounding. Last year 58 of our residents moved on to independent living, 32 were in employment and we trained more than 1,200 people in the local community. Anchor House is a charity worthy of investment, not only because it makes a difference, but because it is focused on helping society's most marginalised and vulnerable who are often overlooked."

Boxer Barry McGuigan and actress Barbara Windsor pictured with residents both became keen supporters after they visited Anchor House



Anchor House – Supporting the Homeless

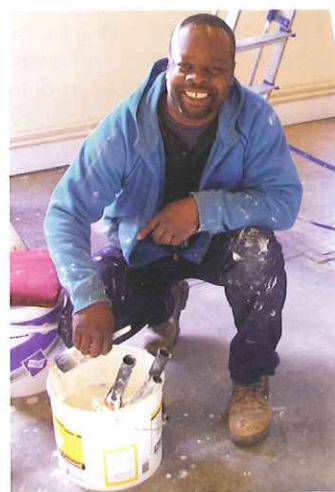
I have just been part of an exciting new launch - a Home and Hope Appeal to assist the development of Anchor House. As most of you will know Anchor House in Newham started life as a Seafarers' Home and when no longer needed for this purpose I felt it should then be used to help some of the homeless and vulnerable people of the area since Newham was the third most deprived borough in the Country. This was over twenty years ago. In the last seven years, huge developments have taken place not only in the total refurbishment of the building but especially in a wide variety of training and skills to help the residents to find work when they leave Anchor House. If successful, the appeal will also help to build a number of 'move-on' flats to help the residents to become more self-dependant as they seek to re-integrate with the community. Altogether Anchor House sleeps over 100 residents and has won many national awards for its work. It is a real flagship in the way it serves some of the most needy and vulnerable of our society. Their 'Aspirations Programme' helps them address the root causes of homelessness through the training, job guidance, health awareness and personal rehabilitation. If you can help the work or appeal in any way, they would love to hear from you. The Bible gives us two great commandments - love of God and love of neighbour. In this sense, Anchor House is pure Gospel



+ Thomas McMahon Bishop of Brentwood

A Fresh Start for Cameron

Now he is working in his 'ideal job' and certificates litter his walls, but life has not always been like this for Cameron, a resident of Anchor House. He was angry when he first arrived; he didn't want to be there. "I was working 24/7 in my own painting and decorating business, working to pay the bills, to survive, but then one day I fell 25ft off a ladder and snapped ligaments in my leg. I couldn't walk and I couldn't work. I arrived at Anchor House disabled, not only homeless but facing a long road to recovery. I thought . . . how could this happen to me? I was a self-sufficient, independent person. Then I realised that this place was the best for me right now and I was grateful for that". It was two years before Cameron could walk steadily again. While at Anchor House, he has completed courses in I.T, manual handling, forklift operations, small business management and NVQs in English and Maths. "Now I feel great, not angry anymore. I am working at Anchor House and have a six-month contract with the maintenance team. Currently I am re-decorating St Margaret's Parish Centre next to Anchor House. I am helping to give back to the community." Cameron's next big challenge is starting up his own small business in painting and decorating within Anchor House and mentoring other residents.



Supporting the Appeal

If parishes or individuals in the diocese would like more information about Anchor House and the appeal or would like to donate, please complete and return the form below or visit www.anchorhouseuk.org or call the Appeal Director, Guy Insull on 0207 476 6062.

By making a donation to Anchor House, you can help residents to put their lives back on track.

I would like to give £ _____ to Anchor House

I enclose a Cheque / Postal Order / CAF Cheque payable to Anchor House

Or please debit my Visa Mastercard CAFCard AMEX Maestro

Card Number _____ Security code _____

Start Date ____/____/____ End Date ____/____/____ Issue No _____

I would like to setup a Standing Order, please contact me

You can donate online at www.anchorhouseuk.org

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

giftaid it Using Gift Aid means that for every £1 you donate, Anchor House can reclaim an additional 25p in tax.

Yes, I would like Anchor House to reclaim tax in all donations I have made since 6 April 2001 and on all future donations until further notice.

NB, you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the amount we will reclaim on your donations.

If you are not a UK taxpayer, please check this box.

Source: Brentwood News

Please send to: **Anchor House, FREEPOST — HOMELESS, 81 Barking Road, Canning Town, London, E16 4HB**

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