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This Week



News

Paxman visits homeless charity

Thursday, 14 July 2011



PLEASED TO MEET YOU: Jeremy Paxman with staff and residents at Anchor House, Canning Town.

By Jenny Green

THE tables were turned on Newsnight presenter Jeremy Paxman when he visited homeless charity, Anchor House, last week.

Instead of telling the compelling stories, the new patron of the Canning Town organisation listened intently as some of East London's homeless residents shared their life histories with him on Wednesday.

The BBC journalist is helping to raise millions of pounds to redevelop the award-winning centre, providing it with 25 move-in studio flats, workshops, a new catering training facility, leisure and recreational areas.

Mr Paxman said: "What struck me most was how these amazing people, who have obviously been through quite a lot in their lives, have not given up and now have huge ambitions for the future.

"For me, the most startling thing about homelessness is how incredibly thin the line is between a settled, ordered life and complete chaos.

"It can be caused by losing your job, the break-up of a relationship, a problem with drink or drugs, or sometimes just a family row."

Keith Fernett, director of Anchor House, is delighted to have Mr Paxman on board.

He said: "Jeremy is a strong advocate of finding long-term solutions to homelessness and we are very pleased to have his support.

"He will be working with us to raise £9.3million through our appeal to ensure our much-needed work in the Newham Community continues."

For more information about Anchor House or to make a donation, call 020 7476 6062 or visit www.anchorhouseuk.org

Email: stratford@yellowad.co.uk

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