

URBAN OUTREACH

(BOLTON)

Newsletter Spring 2023

And his banner over me is love. Song of Solomon 2:4



For a number of years Urban Outreach has owned the Former Central Baptist Church on Snowden Street. We have been asking God for direction as to how to best utilise the building. During this time, the concept of 'Genesis' was born. Genesis is about new beginnings and a desire to create a space for the families and individuals we work with to experience the new beginning that so many desperately desire. Through this space we can work alongside individuals undertaking a range of therapeutic activities supported by mentors from churches and the community. The church building has lots of flexible areas within its walls to run any number of different groups. We are looking to replace the existing kitchen with a training kitchen to create space for people to learn how to bake, cook and budget. Surrounding the church is a vast green area that we are committed to maintain and also develop some areas for growing plants, fruit and vegetables. We have also purchased an outdoor container that will be kitted out with electricity and insulation to provide further space for possible woodworking and outdoor craft activities. When we start to think about the possibilities the list is endless; it certainly is an exciting prospect.

This is an exciting opportunity to do something collectively as churches and supporters. By bringing all of our ideas and passions to the table we can together see a world where those we support can live fulfilled and flourishing lives.

Watch this Space!



Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2022

With thousands of individual donators of food and money & over 350 individual volunteers; together we were able to make and distribute

1955 hampers blessing
6146 people during Christmas 2022!



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Feeding 410,000 people!

In 2022 - over 18,000 food parcels were made and distributed through The Food Hub!



Thank you for your continued support and generosity into The Food Hub. It truly is a town wide effort to bring food to people's homes and it couldn't be done without the generosity of time, food and money.

Thank you!



RISE Trips

(Reaching Inside, Strengthening Emotions)

Over the last few months, our Children and Families' Team has had the privilege of taking groups of the young people we work with on trips to promote wellbeing. These have included:

- Heyhead Farm
- Rivington walk and hot chocolate
- Jump Xtreme
- Pop-up Cinema



In the last quarter (Oct-Dec 22), RISE has supported 21 8-11 and 12 11-19 year olds with their emotional wellbeing through therapeutic intervention.

'I really thought and felt that the RISE worker really wanted to help and tried to understand how I felt.'



Our RUNA project has responded to over 300 missing young person episodes in Bolton already this year! Examples of our support included:

- Safety planning with one mum and daughter around grooming
- Signposting to bereavement support
- Referrals to Complex Safeguarding



Other News...

- Thank you to everyone that came to the 80s Night fundraiser in January. You raised £2860.60!



- 7 members of our staff took part in the Big Sleep Out at Bolton Stadium on 10th March to raise money for Urban Outreach and Bolton Wanderers In The Community. Keep your eyes peeled on our social media for a final total!

Meet the Team

We have been blessed to have a number of new staff join the Urban Outreach Team in the last few months:

Graham



Graham joined our Food team here in September 2022 to work on our food projects. He has been a volunteer with Urban Outreach for many years with Storehouse Foodbank and Bolton Lunches. He is an authorised lay minister with responsibility for youth across the team of Churches. He is also the Church Warden at his home church.

Louise



Louise has worked in a various sectors over the years including the advertising and acting industries. Her involvement in the support and care of vulnerable young people in her own life, as well as her deep concern to help families and children who need to know their true value, has led Louise to pursue a career within our Children and Families Team.

Kristen



Prior to joining our Children and Families' Team in August 2022, Kristen was a youth worker. Working in a variety of settings across Bolton including the youth club "Zac's Youth Bar" in Farnworth led her do a lot of work in local schools. She has also worked as a youth minister for two local churches in Horwich and Halliwell.

Nathan



Nathan joined the food team in November 2022 to help with our emergency food parcels and utility top-up service. He began working as a project manager straight out of college for a large tech company but after 3 years he decided to leave his job and go as a missionary to Zimbabwe, where he built a relationship with the orphans and held business management sessions in the rural villages. He is passionate about serving and has been a church kids and youth leader for the past 8 years.



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