



Alabaré Appeal

WE ALL NEED A SAFE HAVEN...



At Alabaré our aim is to end homelessness for our clients. There are many reasons why someone might find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

We have recognised that there is a specific need for our support within the ex-Service community. So, at the beginning of 2009 we opened Mon Abri House (meaning my safe haven), our first project for former members of the Armed Forces.

Funded by The Royal British Legion, Mon Abri provides accommodation and support to men and women who are experiencing difficulty after leaving military service. Staff offer help with a range of complex issues including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, drug and alcohol addiction, education, employment and life skills.

10.5 million Veterans and dependents make up the ex-Service community.

The most common issues for those aged 16-44 are financial difficulty, unemployment, lack of skills or training, depression and mental health problems.

(source: Profiles and needs of the ex-Service community 2005-2020)

One Mon Abri resident said

"If it wasn't for Mon Abri I would be dead from alcohol abuse. I need people to trust me again, to give me direction, and this is what I am getting here."

In addition to Mon Abri House, Alabaré also offers crisis services and training opportunities for ex-Service personnel.

Our Drop In Centres in Salisbury and Trowbridge are often the first point of contact for clients, providing hot food and drink, washing and laundry facilities and advice. From here we refer clients to other appropriate projects and services.

We also provide Floating Support services, which provide tenancy related support to people in their own homes. We can offer help with budgeting, claiming benefits and form filling, all of which are essential in maintaining a tenancy and preventing eviction.

Additionally we offer the the Alabaré Home and Money programme aimed at equipping people with the skills they need to maintain their tenancy and prevent eviction. It is a series of group workshops covering a range of issues such as benefits and budgeting.

Mrs W, who served in the Army from the age of 16 until she had her first child, was referred to Alabaré by her Health Visitor. She had separated from her husband and needed to leave the army quarter she was living in with her two small children. Mrs W had been subject to domestic abuse and was vulnerable. She wanted to stay in the same area but could not get help from the council as she had no local ties. Community 4, our Floating Support service, helped Mrs W find suitable private rental accommodation and claim the Local Housing Allowance. Community 4 also approached SSAFA Forces Help and The RBL who paid her deposit and first months rent and the Army moved her into her new home. Mrs W still receives support from Alabaré as it is her first tenancy.



Andrew Murrison, Shadow Defence Minister for Veterans and MP for Westbury, visited Mon Abri shortly after it opened. During his visit he met with a number of residents who shared their experiences of the difficulties they faced after leaving military service.

He says

“We have to do more to help homeless veterans as part of our campaign to honour the military covenant. I fear the dire economic situation will increase demand on homelessness charities.”



Mr A had served in The Army Parachute Regiment for over four years and was suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. An error with his benefits caused Mr A to fall into rent arrears, which is when he was referred to Alabaré's Bournemouth Floating Support. His Support Worker contacted SSAFA Forces Help (an organisation that supports those who serve/used to serve in the Armed Forces) who agreed to pay off Mr A's rent arrears in full, enabling him to get his finances back in order. Mr A was then found an affordable house through a charitable letting agent and with the help of his Support Worker is managing his tenancy well. Mr A has now been accepted on a full time plastering course at Bournemouth and Poole College and is looking forward to learning a trade.

The future...

Demand for places at Mon Abri is extremely high; it can only help seven people at any one time. Alabaré wants to provide more houses like this so that we can help end homelessness for even more members of the ex-Service community.

We would like to open a further five homes across the Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Bristol area. This will provide an additional 35 to 40 bed spaces, which are very much needed.

This is where we need your help...

If we want to make a difference to the lives of even more members of the ex-Service community we need to raise £5 million to cover costs for the next five years.

£1.5 million of that would enable us to purchase the five new properties, giving us a more secure base and future for the projects.

The remaining £3.5 million would allow us to run these properties effectively and efficiently for 5 years. It will also enable us to continue to build on the good work of our Wiltshire Drop In Centres, Floating Support services and training programmes, making sure they are all fully accessible to ex-Service personnel.

We are hoping to cover a large proportion of the £5 million with help from other charities, organisations and charitable trusts. But we still need to rely on the kind support of individuals and businesses if we want to succeed in reaching our fundraising target.

Any support that you can offer would be greatly appreciated

These men and women have given so much for their country. Help Alabaré give them something back.

*"This home offers hope, respect and honour."
– Mon Abri resident.*



I am interested in supporting/
knowing more about the work of
Alabaré Christian Care Centres
as ticked opposite.

Please return this form to-
Alabaré Christian Care
Centres
Freepost SCE 9703
33 Brown Street
SALISBURY
SPI 2YZ

Please tick boxes to

Make donation by cheque	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request bank details to make donation by BACS/Card	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request more information about the project	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receive details of volunteering opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed

Title	First Name	Surname
Address		
Town	Postcode	
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