



Alabaré Newsletter

Winter 2017



Pictured (left to right): Bishop of Ramsbury, Nicki Vigor (Drop In Centre Manager) and Alabaré Drop In Centre client.

Christmas Appeal 2017

We hope that by the time you receive this newsletter you will already have seen our Christmas appeal. This year we are asking people to help us provide transformative care to those who so desperately need our support.

People like Gemma who fled in fear from first her Step Dad, and later her boyfriend. All Gemma wanted was a chance for her baby daughter Ellie and her to be safe and to make a new life for themselves. We were so glad to be there for Gemma, and to give her that care and opportunity. Gemma has made incredible progress since she has been living with us.

We know that it is people like you who make this possible. You help transform lives.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already given to our appeal - we are incredibly grateful for your support. If you haven't already but would like to give, we have included a gift form inside this newsletter, or you can give online at alabare.co.uk/donate



Fantastic Volunteers!

Alabaré could not manage every day without our army of volunteers.

Zena travels 30 miles to volunteer in our kitchen at the Drop In.

"It's all about making a difference to those people who need a helping hand. Its amazing how much a friendly face can brighten someone's day. I find it incredibly rewarding knowing that I'm part of someone's journey."

If you would like to volunteer with Alabaré please contact our team on 01722 322882 (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm).

Christmas Shopping

It couldn't be easier to raise money to help us support vulnerable and homeless people off the streets.

Please sign up to **Give as you live**, select us as your chosen charity. Every time you shop at one of over 4,000 online stores, the retailer will donate a small percentage of your spend to us. It costs you nothing extra, but can help us transform lives! You can sign up today at:

giveasyoulive.com/join/alabare



Kieran get's his running shoes on for Alabaré

Our resident in Devizes, Kieran, took to the streets in the Chippenham Half Marathon this September, to thank Alabaré for the support we have given him.

Kieran was only 18 when he became homeless. He was offered a home at Alabaré's Young People's project in Devizes. Over the following year we supported Kieran as he progressed and slowly but surely his life began to turn around. Kieran joined some training courses which built up his confidence and enabled him to start applying for jobs. He has also begun volunteering for Alabaré and says that he would like to one day become a support worker with us.

"People should support Alabaré because they give people a second chance, they get to further their education, get shelter, help them better themselves so that when they become an adult they can work, support themselves and have families. Thank you Alabaré for everything you have done for me."

Thank you so much Kieran - we are very proud of you!



University success for Charlie

Alabaré Place resident Charlie has started a new chapter in his life this Autumn, as he took up his dream university place at Bangor!

Charlie moved in with us in Summer 2016, after suffering mental and physical abuse from a member of his family. From day one, Charlie has been determined to make the most of the support that we give him. Our team were able to help in join a local college course, which he finished with outstanding results.

His experience at college gave him the confidence to apply for university, and he was thrilled to secure a place at Bangor University studying sports science.

Charlie has kept in touch and tells us that he is loving his new life, that he has made lots of new friends and has even taken up kayaking! He says;

"I really enjoy University life and I am looking forward to the future. I can't thank Alabaré enough for all of the support they have given me. Without them I wouldn't be where I am today."



Faith Day at Emmaus House

Residents, staff and volunteers from our Learning Disabilities services came together recently to explore their beliefs at our Faith Day. The group made bread and baskets, remembering Jesus' feeding of the 5000, and a poignant tree of prayers for people around the world who are suffering.

Homes for Veterans update

New Swansea Flats

Four very special flats were handed over to us in Clydach near Swansea in October. For the last two years we have been working with the housing association Pobl, who have been developing the historic Clydach War Memorial Hospital.

Pobl have converted the building and land to provide affordable homes, including four flats where Veterans from our homes in South Wales can take the next step back to independence. The support we are providing at Clydach has been made possible thanks to the Royal British Legion.



Aged Veterans Service

In November we launched a new service for vulnerable Veterans who are over 65. Thanks to a grant from The Aged Veterans Fund, funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds, we will help Veterans living in their own homes improve their wellbeing by getting them more involved in their local communities, and accessing health services. Our teams will make sure they are receiving the correct income and help with any accessibility issues in their home, so they can continue living fulfilling, independent lives.

Our Wilton Update

We are delighted to be working with the Our Wilton Trust in the development of the Veterans Village and Enterprise Hub. We will be providing accommodation and support to homeless Veterans in need. Since the ground break in May, the build is spectacularly taking shape and the skeleton of the build is rising from the ground.

"This landmark project will transform the lives of those who have served our Country. We are all very excited to see it take shape."

Andrew Lord, CEO



News round up

Glow In The Park: Longleat

Thank you to the 4,500 people who got their Glow On with us at Longleat in September. Together you have raised over £40,000 which is fantastic! This money will make a massive difference to the homeless and vulnerable people who need our support - thank you so much.

A head for heights

Tickets are now sold out for our abseil of the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth on 25th March 2018! Fear not though, because we are looking for 100 daredevils to skydive for us on 11th November 2018 to mark 100 years since the end of WW1. Both events are raising funds for our Homes for Veterans initiative - for news of this and other challenges coming soon go to alabare.co.uk

Leaving a legacy

Thank you to our wonderful supporters who responded to our recent mailing, and let us know that they have left us a gift in their Will. We are so incredibly grateful for your support. To find out more about how you can leave a gift in your Will, call us on 01722 344484.

Keeping in touch

We think it's very important to let you know how your support is changing lives - but we want to do it in a way you are happy with. Please complete and return to us the enclosed "Keeping in touch" form or go to alabare.co.uk to update your preferences.



Staff Views

David works in our Young People Leaving Care Project.

The service provides care for 16-18 year olds who have left foster care, guiding them to live a more independent life and helping them gain valuable life skills whilst having support at hand.

David describes his work as very rewarding, very frustrating and a real challenge at times but great fun!

"The highlights of my job as a support worker at Alabaré cannot really be measured. They are the little successes; a thank you from someone who has been grunting since they arrived at the project. Eye contact from a young person who has been distant and uninterested for weeks, showing increased confidence a young person engaging in conversation and starting to take control of their life."

"I enjoy being able to help Young People have a better prospect in life than they would otherwise have. Realising that the smallest of things can be huge to someone whose world is falling apart, and can provide a very positive result."

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