



# TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER

SPRING 2024 ISSUE



## Great Success: Winter Night Shelter

On the 31st of March, our winter night shelter at Everyday Church, Kingston concludes; having provided shelter to 25 different guests who otherwise would have been sleeping rough since January through winter weather with lows of -5°C. Well done and thank you to the 119 volunteers who helped KCAH make this possible.

Thanks go out to everyone who has prayed for Kingston people experiencing homelessness. Please continue to support KCAH and allow us to keep our vital services going.

## KCAH Recruiting Charity Champions

We have recruited 16 Charity Champions (CCs) so far to be our key contact person within their church moving forward.

Can you name the 5 churches to the right? *Read more about CCs in the bottom article of page 2.*

To become a CC, please contact Dan via the details at the bottom of the page. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sending thanks to those pioneering CCs reading this.



## Welcome Visit From a Past Service User

At the end of February, KCAH were overjoyed to receive a visit from Pawel who was previously a tenant of our Access Project which provides supported temporary housing.

Pawel has now started a new life in a different city, having received help from KCAH's The Bridge and Kingston Wellbeing Service. Pawel now has a new lease of life having overcome long-term alcohol dependency and ill health.

Hear Pawel's story in the new video on our website.



## KCAH's 2024 Marathon Superstars

KCAH is really fortunate to have remarkable people who take on big challenges and dedicate the funds they raise through sponsorship to our charity.

Pictured above left is Sharon Young, a local woman who entered the ballot for the London Marathon 2024 last year along with her two sons who encouraged her to enter.

Of course, both sons were unsuccessful and Sharon is the one who is running the second largest road race in the UK!

Impressively, Sharon has exceeded her sponsorship target of £1,000 with a month to spare before the big day on Sunday 21st April.

Pictured above right is 'Super' Steve Ramek. We call him Super Steve because he is now 1/4 through his superhuman effort to run 12 marathons for KCAH in 2024.

That's one in each calendar month!

Having already completed the Phoenix marathon in Sunbury, the Big Mud Run at South Downs and the Rome Marathon, Steve has reached a running total of 79.2 so far and that's not including his daily practise!

Please put your hand in your pocket and sponsor Steve in his amazing efforts. Visit his fundraising page at:

[justgiving.com/campaign/supersteve](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/supersteve)

## Recent Visit to Surbiton Hill Methodist Church



In mid-March, our new marketing and communications manager Dan Whittingham went to meet with Marina Golding, a steward of Surbiton Hill Methodist Church.

It was a Monday morning and the whole place was a hive of activity!

Along with many of the churches in the Kingston borough, SHMC has been an avid supporter of KCAH for decades.

Marina has kindly become the KCAH Charity Champion (CC) at her church and is now Dan's key contact person for two-way communication, moving forward.

KCAH has appointed a number of CCs already and aims to have a CC in every church of the borough, because: *'Together, we are stronger!'*

**To elect your CC and/or to arrange a visit or a talk at your church, please contact Dan using the contact details below.**

## Consider our Birthday Appeal

Since demand for KCAH's services has increased 30% in just 12 months, we are seeing a minimum of 10 new people at our drop-in centre each week. These are people who are already homeless or facing housing crisis.

In 2024, we invite you to consider asking friends and family to donate money to KCAH to mark your birthday. This can be done easily by creating your own fundraiser from the Birthday Appeal campaign on our website.



## CEO's Message

KCAH has fought the fight this winter. Running our Winter Night Shelter due to demand has made myself and KCAH staff more determined than ever to positively intervene in homelessness in the borough.

We have faced new challenges this year, recruiting staff, acquiring funding and ensuring we're providing the right service for those that need to turn to KCAH for help.

We are seeing increasing numbers of people in housing crisis and poverty due to the Cost of Living. I know I speak for our whole team when I say how grateful we are for your support. Without these, we would not be able to offer the service that we do.

~Georgie Forshaw