

Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness



SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Become a Winter Night Shelter Volunteer

We are currently in the process of planning our Winter Night Shelter to make sure that no one in our borough has to sleep on the streets this coming winter. But for it to become the success it was last year, we need your help once again.

If you would like to volunteer, even just one shift, this winter, we will love to welcome you to join our team of volunteers! You don't have to have any previous experience - we will provide training. To find out more and for an opportunity to ask any questions you might have, please come along to our next training session on **Saturday 14th September, 10.30am to 12.30pm at St Peter's Church, London Road, Kingston, KT2 6QL.**



You don't commit to anything by attending the training but you might just leave with the realisation that volunteering is right up your street and something you would like to pursue.

If you are interested in volunteering or you would like to attend the training session, please email us on winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk or call 0208 255 740 and ask to speak to Sophie. Welcome!

700 miles for KCAH

Thank you to our seven phenomenal riders Natalie, Ed, Thomas, Andrew, Julie, Sally and Tim who completed the 100 mile Prudential Cycle for KCAH in August, raising over £6000 for our work with some of the most vulnerable people in Kingston. Our hats are well and truly off!

To find out how you can support our work, please visit our website kcah.org.uk for ideas. If you are interested in cycling for Team KCAH in next year's Prudential Cycle, please email camilla.w@kcah.org.uk and Camilla will get in touch once we know how many spots we have secured.



Thomas, Sally and Tim showing us how it's done

What a difference a (Community) day make...

When volunteers from British Land, in partnership with Three Hands, joined the team at KCAH for their annual Community Day, magic was made by decorating the new flat of former KCAH client, Elliott.

Watch our film about the day on our website kcah.org.uk and click on 'Our Stories'. Thank you to everyone who took part and made Elliott's house a home! *"When you're homeless it feels like it's all on hold but now I feel like I can go forward and do a lot of the things I want to do in my life"*, said a very happy Elliott about his new home.

We wish Elliott all the very best for the future!



Elliott and the transformation team

Welcome Jhoana!

We are pleased to introduce our new Asset Coach, Jhoana, to the KCAH Access Project!

"I am honoured to be a member of staff at KCAH in the new exciting position of Asset Coach which, by its name, gives little away about the amazing opportunity KCAH have to impact on their tenants lives through this role.

Having worked in the homeless sector for over a decade where the label of 'Homeless' sticks and becomes the nameless identity for many, it is refreshing to have a change of culture; instead of only focusing on the problems that a client might face, our new approach is to see each person with talents, skills and so much to give. The purpose of the role is to provide enriching interactions, opportunities and experiences that bring out the tenants' strengths, skills and aspirations. This will hopefully have a lasting impact and help our tenants live a more confident, fulfilled and independent life. What it means in practice is that I have the best job ever; I get to spend time with people, help them see their best selves and I get to witness the metamorphosis that follows. What a privilege!"



And the winner is...



Camilla and Sophie from KCAH with our Inclusion Award

We were incredibly humbled that our Winter Night Shelter was nominated in the categories 'Inclusion', 'Social Justice' and 'Disadvantaged' at the Premier Radio Love Britain+Ireland Awards (London and the South East) and so pleased to win the 'Inclusion' category for 'an outstanding project supporting and serving people with additional needs'. Thank you to the listeners of Premier radio who voted for us to win. The win means that we have been put forward for the national final in October too.

We are also delighted to let you know that KCAH are, for the second year running, finalists in the 'Best Charity or Social Enterprise' category at the Kingston Excellence in Business Awards and our Night Shelter Coordinator, Sophie, is a finalist in the 'Young Achiever' category at this year's Women in Housing Awards in Manchester! She said: *"It's very exciting to be shortlisted alongside so many amazing women in the housing sector across the country. I'm really proud to be a part of KCAH and I'm thrilled that our hard work is being recognised nationally."*

We're keeping our fingers crossed!

Voices of Hope



What a fantastic evening we enjoyed at the Voices of Hope concert in July!

We laughed, were moved to tears and everything in between, as we thoroughly enjoyed the musical extravaganza. The strength, resilience and pure talent on show absolutely floored us and we were so proud to see some of our clients in the Streetwise and Sisterhood choirs.

Thank you to everyone who made the night such a success! An extra big thank you to Sarah Clay from Voices of Hope who organised the event and to Mayor of Kingston, Cllr Margaret Thompson and her husband, Prof. Richard Thompson for attending.

Share your story

If you are a past KCAH client who would like to share your story in future newsletters or on film, we would love to hear from you!

Email our Communications Officer, Camilla on camilla.w@kcah.org.uk. Thank you.

Please pray for

- A venue for our Winter Night Shelter and for us to overcome any logistical challenges
- For us to secure funding for a third Housing Adviser, enabling us to meet the increasing need for Housing Crisis support
- Anyone who is experiencing homelessness in Kingston, especially the 40+ rough sleepers known to KCAH

Save the date

Our AGM will take place on **17 Oct 2019, 19.30** at The Fircroft Trust, 96 Ditton Road, Surbiton, KT6 6RH. Register on eventbrite.co.uk (search for 'KCAH AGM 2019') or email camilla.w@kcah.org.uk

KCAH will have a stall at Surbiton Festival on Saturday **28 Sept 2019**, 10.00-16.00. Hope to see you there!



KCAH, St Peter's Church Hall, London Road, Kingston, KT2 6QL Phone: 0208 255 7400

Visit www.kcah.org.uk and follow us on Facebook @kcahuk, Twitter @kcahtweets and Instagram @kingstonkcah

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