

# *inHope.*

*For those who need us most*



## Information and Update Letter

inHope is a Christian charity working in the heart of Bristol, to support the most vulnerable and marginalised people within our city. Our vision is of communities where everybody can reach their God-given potential, free from injustice and insecurity. We exist to help people overcome insecurities such as homelessness, hunger, addiction, and poor mental health. These insecurities are often caused by injustices such as insufficient housing, limited access to food, poor employment, discrimination, and abuse.

Based in Easton, inHope offers a place of love and acceptance, supporting people through practical provision, shelter and housing whilst helping people develop life skills and employability. All of this is done whilst offering people the opportunity to encounter Jesus and to discover the love and hope that he offers.

## News

After almost two years of the **Wild Goose** having to serve outside or offer takeaway at the door, it has been great to be able to open the doors fully and provide a warm welcome without any Covid restrictions. In 2022, the team have introduced activities that increases client's wellbeing; free haircuts by professionals, creative writing workshops, art, and a service user forum. In October, 2,370 meals were served.

**Spring of Hope** women's centre has had a time of transition this year with the arrival of new Manager, Nicola Saunders, in May. Nicola and Trudy have worked hard to prepare the building under Public Health England guidance, so that vulnerable women can stay overnight again. They now need to recruit 4 x night support workers to enable this to happen. In the meantime, 18 women have been supported with move-on housing, prayer, and advocacy with other agencies.

In 2022, **Life Recovery** moved into their new home on Midland Road, BS2. This dedicated space has been really effective to host the Life Course. Ant has been busy this year training other local organisations and charities, such as Beloved, Genesis Trust, and Changing Lives, to run the Life Course in their own contexts.

The **Foodbank** has continued to experience a rise in people in need, increasingly by working people. Between April – October this year, our six Foodbank outlets have provided 7289 emergency food parcels.

2 x **Hope into Action Bristol** homes have been purchased and refurbished for tenants.



Lunch at the Wild Goose



Foodbank client needing baby items



New Life Course room

## Future Plans

Following another challenging year for people who were already struggling, the added stressor of rising costs of living has meant we have seen the number of people needing help steadily increase. Here are some of our future plans that will help people in need.

- Continuing our part in the Trussell Trust Pathfinders project, where different paths are being explored to reduce the need for Foodbanks nationally, which includes the work of our Foodbank support workers and seconded Citizens Advice Benefits Advice Workers.
- Increasing the engagement activities the Wild Goose offers that increase the wellbeing of clients, including art sessions and yoga. And hosting more agencies who offer specific help, for example SWAN Advocacy.
- Marketing the franchise of the Life Course (production of Leaders Guide and participant workbooks), so that churches, charities, and other recovery groups can run the course.
- More houses to be purchased and opened as a Hope into Action Bristol home for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Church communities have a vital role to play alongside inHope, investors and other organisations in Bristol, whether through re-imagining how church buildings are used or partnering with us through our Hope into Action Bristol network to build loving Christian communities around a safe and secure home.
- Recruiting 4 x night support workers and 1 x daytime support worker for Spring of Hope to re-open overnight short term accommodation, offer more daytime support sessions, and host external agencies, for example Homeless Health Service.

## How can St Michael's pray for inHope?

Please pray for:

- People at risk of homelessness this winter that they would find the right support to be able to keep their homes.
- The amazing team of volunteers that continue to faithfully serve God and our clients/service users.
- The right women to come forward for the 4 x night worker jobs at Spring of Hope, to enable vulnerable women to stay overnight again.

We thank God for the generous provision of food, practical, and financial donations from churches across the city. We couldn't do any of what we do without churches like St Michael's - thank you for your support and prayers!

**St Michael's appointed link person: Rachel Mason**

**The  
Wild Goose**

**Spring of  
Hope**

**Life  
Recovery**

South & East  
Bristol  
**foodbank**

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