

**Newsletter – in respect of the homeless in Poole – Autumn 2008**

Since our last newsletter we have been very busy with the “guys and girls”. Not only have several more been housed, but we acknowledge that is not the end of the story and they still need ongoing support in their new homes – support to furnish their places, support to help them sort out their finances, and support to motivate them to get their lives back on track.

We have become increasingly aware that “mentoring” the guys plays a major part in their rehabilitation and to this end, **Rev Pat Southgate** (the Chair of Routes to Roots) has now been released by her church, St Peter’s of Parkstone, to spend more time as **Chaplain to the Homeless** and therefore attending to the spiritual and emotional needs of those we seek to serve. In the future, we would hope to be developing “pairs of mentors” to spend time with the clients and build them up. Meanwhile, Pat is available and eager to visit any organisations to talk about the work of Routes to Roots - she is willing to address school assemblies, organisations and/or preach in church services - do please get in contact if you feel she could help. **Please pray for both Rob and Pat in the pastoral work they are undertaking – it can be very challenging and disheartening.**

Our dream of having a **Daytime Resource Centre** is still being pursued in which not only basic facilities would be provided but also motivational activities to try to overcome the boredom which prevails amongst the homeless. We have had a helpful meeting with the Council and are due to meet again with them in September; we are actively seeking a building in the Poole area which would meet this need **and we would value your prayers that the right place would be secured.**

**An Arts Council Project** has been submitted and this will involve the guys being able to access various arts projects on their turf – with the encouragement of professionals - a photographer, creative writer and visual artists – to produce their own work and exhibit it in Poole. It is now hoped this will happen in November.

There are obviously many service users needing prayer and support, but we are grateful to you all for the concern you show and your prayerful participation. Do please continue to make the work known to all those you come into contact with. One need we have identified is the necessity for fund-raising on a larger scale – if you know of anyone who would be willing and able to fund-raise for our charity, do please get in touch with us.