



Christian action on homelessness

www.routestoroots.org

Charity No. 1093689

Spring Newsletter '08

R2R receives £40,000 from Charitable Trust!

We can now confirm that our application to a Charitable Trust Fund to obtain funding to help us open a Drop In Resource Centre for the Homeless in Poole, has been successful. The £40,000 we have been allocated came with the proviso that the money is only spent on the furnishing and equipping of a suitable building, which we must be seen to be making good progress with obtaining, by October '08. This means that for us the race is now on, and we are already having conversations with other Charitable organisations and also representatives of Poole Borough Council to see if we can obtain more help, particularly with finding and funding a suitable premises and also to obtain funds to meet staffing costs. We are motivated in all that we do, by these words from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

'I know the plans I have for you', says the Lord, 'plans for your welfare and not for harm, plans to give you a future with hope'.

Please pray for us that over the next few months God will enable us bring to completion that which with his grace we have already began.

To know more about our plans for the Resource Centre please click on 'the Vision' page.

Six homeless people housed in one week!

Over the last 3 months around 14 homeless people have been housed in private rented accommodation. This was made possible with help from the Housing department, a change in the housing allowance and also through the hard work and perseverance of our outreach worker Rob Fish. In April in one week alone, Rob helped 6 people to find and move furniture into their new homes. In the past R2R have helped by obtaining furniture and furnishings from Dorset Reclaim and covering the cost ourselves. The cost of furnishing a small flat or bedsit can be anything between £150 and £200. With so many suddenly being housed in one week we did not have sufficient funds to do this so we had to find other ways. An appeal for furniture went out and we were fortunate to find all that was needed. In the future we are thinking about having a lock up facility so that we can store furniture and furnishings as they become available to us and thus save money.

If you have or know someone who has a garage or other suitable space that we could use for storage, then please let us know!

Also if you have a van and could sometimes help with moving furniture that also would be a great help.

To offer any kind of help or for more information please contact our Administrator Lynn on 01202 659059

R2R AGM and SOCIAL EVENING at St Peter's Church, Parkstone.

**Our Annual General Meeting once again takes place at St Peter's on Monday 2nd
June at 7.30pm.**

**Please come along and hear more about our plans for the future, especially
regarding the Resource Centre.**

And once the business side of our meeting is over we hope you will stay to chat and join
us for Cheese, Pate and Wine (or soft drinks).

**To come to this meeting you don't have to be a member but if you would like to
join R2R**

**then please click on the Membership page and download a form today, or get in
touch with Lynn on 01202 659059**

And finally some very sad news.

In spite of all the encouraging news we have recently had, in many ways April has become one of the saddest months we have had since the beginning of Routes to Roots. It began at the end of March when we heard that **Jim** one of our oldest friends had passed away in hospital after a long illness. Jim was a very likeable and sociable guy who will be missed by his many friends and family. Not long after that came the news that **Antony** one of our newest friends on the streets had been found dead in a car park in Poole. Antony was just waiting for a room to become available in high level supported housing. Then came news of **Russell's** death. One of the R2R trustees described Russell as the ' face of Routes to Roots ' because he had been with us from the beginning and it was difficult to realise that we would see him no more. The crematorium was packed for his funeral. Finally came news that **Nigel** another of our longest known homeless friends was terminally ill. Nigel passed away peacefully in Forset Holme Hospice much sooner than any of us had anticipated. Whilst there he received many visits from family and friends and we can be thankful that he died surrounded with the love, care and dignity which had alluded him during the years he spent sleeping on the streets.

***JIM, ANTONY, RUSSELL and NIGEL may you rest this
day in peace.***