



Newsletter – March 2024

At the end of March, we will be celebrating 2 years since the opening of the Genesis Centre. This time has both flown by but also required plenty of hard work from staff, trustees, contractors and most importantly volunteers.

Coming out of Covid lock downs in January 2022 the daily offer had become one-hour lunch sessions. Two years on, we are now providing daily drop-ins, twice weekly breakfasts, additional support and social groups as well as access to showers and washing machines.

Recently we have been delighted to be able to offer overnight accommodation during the coldest of weathers when SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) is activated.

We continue to receive incredible support from local churches. Both Lytchett Minster Parish Church & St Dunstan's Upton, and St Mary's Catholic Church, provide and serve homemade lunches one Sunday a month each. The Service Users greatly appreciate having a Sunday Meal.

We hope to engage with more churches over the next 12 months who may be keen to provide a monthly Sunday lunch.

Happy Easter

Note for the Diary:

AGM

21 May 2024

Genesis Centre,
Hill Street, Poole.
BH15 1NR



Your kind donations allow us to continue offering excellent quality hot meals at lunchtimes to our service users. If you, your team at work, your church, school or other group would like to donate here to the Genesis Centre on Hill Street in Poole, the items we use weekly include:

Baked Beans
Tinned chopped Tomatoes
Penne pasta / Spaghetti
Bottles of Squash
Tinned Kidney Beans
Tinned Sweetcorn
Tinned Pulses
Ketchup
Brown Sauce

Teabags
Instant Coffee
Sugar
Gravy
Biscuits
Kidney Beans
Pasta Sauces (Bolognese & Chilli)
Stock Cubes

The Genesis Centre has also allowed us to be able to provide a space for the fantastic work that churches were already providing for those affected by homelessness in Poole. We really hope that the Genesis Centre has enhanced the experience of those volunteers from Sunnyhill, St Mary's Longfleet and the Lighthouse Family Church who provide such valuable services at the weekend, when support is a little more scarce.

The continued generosity both financially, through practical donations, and peoples time really has contributed to two wonderful years and whilst the demand unfortunately continues to grow, we have been able to provide a positive, warm and essential environment for those that need it. A big thank you to all who have contributed.

SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol)

In January there were two separate periods of SWEP activated and during this time we were able to utilise the Genesis Centre to host 12 beds allowing individuals to come in and sleep somewhere safe and warm. This period is a great opportunity to work collaboratively with BCP Council and St Mungo's to ensure everybody is assessed and potential housing solutions are explored.



On the 20th of March we were once again joined by the wonderful staff of **Baggette & Co Wealth Management** who "took over our "Drop-In. As always, they brought bundles of energy, enthusiasm and whole lot of cooking skills, ensuring those that needed it received a warm welcome and a hot meal.

There are always opportunities for corporate organisations to get involved and work with us either through take-overs or volunteer days. It is a fantastic way for individuals to help in their local community and provides a terrific team building experience. If your organisation is interested in working with us, please contact us via office@routestoroots.org

Late in February we were able to provide those who access our service with an extra special lunch.

Ojos Pizza have spent the last few months running a campaign '**A slice of support**' which encouraged their customers to buy ahead for those in need of the Genesis Centre Drop-In.

A Prayer for the Homeless in Poole

Heavenly Father
Whose Son Jesus Christ showed his love
and compassion to those who were marginalised
and on the edge of society,
look with favour upon the work of Routes to Roots
as we reach out with Jesus' love
to those whom we serve.

May those whom we care for,
Know that they are precious in your sight
and find value and purpose for their lives,
and may those who serve do so graciously
knowing they are doing it in your name.
may we all see you in and through each other
and recognise the truth in Jesus' words:
"When you do this for the least of my family
you did it to me"

Amen



The homemade pizzas served with salad went down a storm. Having Olli and Joe cook them from their Pizza Oven at the front of the Genesis Centre created a great talking point, and a positive buzz for the day.

We are incredibly grateful to Olli, Joe and their customers for their generosity and hopefully look forward to working with them in the future. If you would like to contribute to 'A Slice of support' or visit the guys website they can be found at <https://www.ojospizza.com/a-slice-of-support>

One constant at Routes to Roots over the years has been the wonderful work of Jenny Donovan. Jenny has provided chiropody services voluntarily to those sleeping outside since the Skinner Street years. Over that time, she has cut many toenails and bathed many feet as well as becoming a television star with her work featuring on the BBC. This vital work has played a huge part in our services here at Routes to Roots and she certainly has a large queue when she attends on a monthly basis.

In addition to this splendid work, Jenny has also successfully fund-raised several hundreds of pounds to ensure that she is able to provide a brand-new pair of waterproof shoes to those sleeping outside. The ability to keep your feet dry is essential in maintaining good foot care. This can be an incredibly challenging task for someone who is sleeping outside who has trainers or unsuitable footwear.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Telephone: 01202 667880

Email: office@routestoroots.org

If you would like to make a financial donation, please click [Routes to Roots \(Poole\) CIO](#)
- [Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](#)