



www.bromleyshelter.org.uk | 2 April 2020

Dear Friends of the Bromley Homeless Shelter

We are now two weeks on from the planned closure of the Bromley Central winter night shelter and I am writing to convey our heartfelt gratitude to you all for your wide ranging and faithful support throughout another winter and into the year ahead.

Sadly we cannot hold our annual 'Volunteer Thankyou' event just now due to matters of National Emergency! However, that doesn't mean that we can't say a **GREAT BIG THANKYOU** now and will look forward to give our thanks and celebrate together in due course. We are very aware that we don't get to see you all, get to know you all, and get to thank you all in person, but please know that we value you greatly, as do guests of the shelter who we are able to help, by our collective efforts.

Through your generosity and support we enabled 45 guests to be accommodated at the night shelter during the four months of the 2019/20 season. This equates to 967 bed nights and a (conservative) estimation of 5784 volunteer hours. It also means 119 mornings of breakfasts served and evening meals prepared and a minimum of 166 sets of bedding laundered!

Those hours are aside from the volunteer hours given to support not only guests of the shelter but those at risk of homelessness throughout the year by our steadfast advice service, led by Kim. **Kim and her**

team work tirelessly throughout the year and step up a whole new level throughout the shelter season.

The hours also don't reflect the behind the scenes input from the caretakers and teams from within the host churches nor the talented and loyal IT support and innovation we receive.

I know that many of you who signed up to help this year have been left disappointed that we have not been able to get you on to a team. Much of this has been due to the non-opening of the North-West Shelter which has been a great frustration for us all given how well used it was last season and the number of additional people we were able to help. Rather than dwell on the negativity of this, I do want to thank those who have quietly, patiently and faithfully been ready and waiting, in the wings, to serve, showing continual support throughout.

With planning permission in place and your eagerness to see the North-West shelter operate next season we will do all we can to secure landlord's consent and work with you and the local churches and community groups to help make this happen.

The Bromley Central Shelter closed on the morning of 18 March just as the social distancing and isolation factors were coming into play amidst the national emergency that is Covid-19. Due to your continuing financial generosity and support we were able to move swiftly, prior to recent Government measures, to ensure that none of our guests had to return to the street (even though one or two may choose to after the crisis).

Aside from the practicalities, some of which are mentioned above, in all of this the most precious of gifts to those we are here to support is your time and your love. This has been shown, and continues to be shown, in plentiful measure.

So, on behalf of the trustees, I want to thank you for all you have done, all you are doing and all I know you will continue to do. I pray that you keep safe and well in these uncertain times and look forward to us being able to come together properly in the not so distant future.

God bless, Angela

Chair of Trustees, The Bromley Homeless Shelter