

Community Newsletter

Spring 2018



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



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Can you help homeless people in Oxford?

Homelessness services in Oxford are being cut and rents are rising. It's a tough situation and homelessness continues to rise both here and across the country.

Your donations make a huge difference. In 2017, 38 formerly homeless people were given the chance to live in our community – a home for as long as they needed it - as well as meaningful work.

We need your help to keep supporting homeless people. You can donate now by calling 01865 402073, sending a cheque to Emmaus Oxford, 171 Oxford Road, Oxford, OX4 2ES or visiting www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford or www.facebook.com/emmausoxford to donate online. Want to find out more? Contact Hannah on fundraising@emmausoxford.org or call 07557 282649.

working together to end homelessness

Estate agent support

Wallers Estate Agents have teamed up with Emmaus Oxford.

Wallers is Oxford's family-run, independent Estate Agent. "Homelessness is obviously a growing concern in Oxford", says Rowan Waller, founder and Managing Director. "Offering a job, as well as a home and support, really sets Emmaus apart from other homeless charities. It inspired us, and we had to lend a hand".

Wallers have already sent a number of tenants and landlords to the Emmaus store to furnish their homes with some fantastic, affordable furniture and plan to help further with some upcoming house clearances.

To find out more about Wallers Estate Agents visit their website, wallersestateagents.com

If you know a local business who could pledge some support to Emmaus Oxford, big or small, please call us on 01865 763698 to have a chat.



We need to hear from you!

Emmaus Oxford relies on your support and we want to keep you up to date with our work.

Data Protection law in the UK is due to change from May 2018 and we need to hear from you so we can keep you updated with all our latest news.

We are asking everyone on our mailing list to complete and return a 'Keep me updated' form if they would like us to stay in touch.

If we don't hear back from you, we won't be in touch in future.

If you would like us to send you our latest news, you can join our mailing list by dropping us an email to fundraising@emmausoxford.org and letting us know if you'd like us to contact you by post, email or telephone.

Thank you.



"Emmaus gave me the chance to start again" - Jason's story

Former companion Jason now helps others out of homelessness. This is his story:

"My father used to drink a lot and I grew up with domestic violence. My behaviour began to be affected and my attitude got really bad. Mum started to drink and take drugs. As a nine year old I would be upstairs and they would be playing loud music: men and women getting drunk and smoking. Mum started to deal Class A and B drugs; I used to have to do drug runs for her. Around this time my mum started dating a new man called Jo; he looked out for me and we became very close – he felt like a stepdad.

A few years later Jo died suddenly. I was so angry that I started drinking and taking Class A drugs. I stopped going to school and from there I got addicted to the freedom of committing crimes.

When I was 16, my house got raided and I was arrested. This was the beginning of a cycle with me in and out of prison, and I became addicted to Class A drugs. I'd commit crimes and dealt drugs myself, to pay for it. My family gave up on me and I found myself living on the streets. My first taste of homelessness was scary. I was dirty and unshaven, and slept mainly on benches. I felt ashamed and powerless.

During one particular prison sentence, I finally admitted I had a

problem and asked for help. They moved me to a rehab community; it took 12 months of hard work but I was finally clean and I left to finish my time in an open prison.

As it got near to my release date I knew I needed support. I heard about Emmaus; I saw it as a chance to start again, with support around me. I was a companion at Emmaus Oxford for 18 months. The staff were really supportive and I enjoyed working on the van – delivering and collecting furniture for the store. After a few months I met up with my family. My sister said it was the first time she'd seen the real Jason in 15 years.

The Emmaus staff helped to rebuild my confidence and pushed me in the right direction. They encouraged me to apply for a job as a Homeless Support Worker at a local shelter – I was so pleased when I got it. I'm now living in a rented flat and doing really well. I also work part-time for Emmaus, supporting companions.

I've learnt that you can turn a negative into a positive. With the support of my family and the staff at rehab and Emmaus, I've now been clean and sober for seven years. I've learnt to have courage and to believe that change is possible. Magical things can happen!"

Help us change lives

Friends of Emmaus Oxford are supporters who donate a small amount each month towards the cost of helping ex-homeless people like Jason turn their lives around.

Find out more: www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford/friends or call 01865 402073.





From rags to riches: how old clothes & shoes can help

Our new 'Rags to Riches' appeal is asking you to bring in your old clothes and shoes – even if they are worn or damaged. Emmaus Oxford wants to spread the word that we can raise vital funds from any fabric or footwear. Our charity store on Barns Road in the Cowley area of Oxford stocks the quality items, but we also make use of clothes and shoes which aren't sellable, passing them to a recycling company who buy in bulk - also raising money for Emmaus.

In 2017, Emmaus Oxford were able to generate over £1,800 through bagging up old clothes and shoes for recycling. Anyone interested in donating clothing or footwear for Emmaus, can drop off their donations at our store - thank you for your support.

Support Emmaus Oxford

Donate to us

We depend on donations of good quality second-hand items that we can sell on to support our community. We can collect items from your home or business or you can drop them at our store. Tell us what you have to offer and we'll take care of the rest - call 01865 763698

Shop with us

By shopping with us you're not only likely to pick up a bargain, you'll also be helping to provide a home for people who have experienced homelessness.

Visit our store:
242 Barns Road, Cowley OX4 3RQ
Opening hours: Monday - Saturday
9.30am - 5pm and Sunday 10am - 4pm
Call our store: 01865 763698

Volunteer with us

Volunteering with Emmaus can be a great way to gain work experience or just get involved in a vibrant and bustling community. Contact us to sign up and see what volunteering roles we have available.

Get in touch

Call 01865 402073 or visit us at
www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford

Community address: Emmaus Oxford, 171 Oxford Road, Cowley OX4 2ES



www.facebook.com/emmausoxford



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Emmaus Oxford is a charity registered in England and Wales (3422341).

