

Community Newsletter

Autumn 2020



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



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For this year's Recycle Week, we celebrated saving 630 tonnes of items from going to landfill in 2019 - which is the weight equivalent to approximately 49 double decker buses!

Instead of going to the tip, items that are donated to us are sold in our Barns Road store to help generate the funds needed to provide a home, meaningful work, daily support and funded training for people who have been homeless. We couldn't do our work without the very generous donations we receive and we're proud that our services mean that we are doing our bit for the environment as well as giving the local people of Oxford the opportunity to give their unwanted items a new home.

Book a free collection with us today online or call us on 01865 763698 to check what items we are accepting in store.

working together to end homelessness

Get your unique Christmas cards!

It has been a difficult year for our charity, and we're asking our supporters to buy Christmas cards to support us.

Keep an eye out on our eBay store for our special Emmaus Oxford Christmas cards, featuring photos taken by our companions:

www.charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/Emmaus-Oxford

We will be selling packs of 10 cards for £3.50 and all proceeds will go right back to supporting our companions.



THE BIG GIVE

ONE DONATION.
DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge

Emmaus Oxford is delighted to have been picked to take part in the Big Give's Christmas Challenge this year.

This means that between 12pm 1st December 2020 – 12pm 8th December 2020, donations made through the Big Give will be doubled.

This year we're aiming to raise £9500 to cover the costs of toiletries and essential items for our companions and the costs of our weekly rough sleeper outreach work.

A donation of any size made through the Big Give on those dates will make double the difference to homeless people in Oxford.

Thanks for popping the date in your diary and we'll have more updates on our website and social media nearer the time.



Darren's story

To mark this year's World Homeless Day and World Mental Health Day, companion Darren is sharing his experience to inspire others:

I was quite young when I began struggling with my mental health. I ended up leaving home but didn't have anywhere to go. I remember my first night sleeping rough even now, 22 years on. I slept in a car park, on the floor. I didn't have anything to sleep on and I was just wearing my jacket. I went on to be homeless on and off for 12 years and sleeping at the side of bypasses and in hedgerows became normal for me.

A lot of the services available to people who are homeless only give you a certain amount of time to stay there. It felt like they were patching over the problem instead of actually solving it. You can only paper over the cracks so much before they start to show again.

I moved to Emmaus Oxford in October 2018 and straight away the team here supported me with my issues and organised counselling sessions. Since joining Emmaus, I have felt my mental health improving each day, which is a great feeling to have.

The recent lockdown was really tough though. I found that my anxiety went up during that period and I missed working in our store. Myself and my fellow companions found other things to do to stay positive like decorating our community home and deep cleaning our shared kitchen. Being at Emmaus Oxford allowed me to keep busy during that time, which really helped.

At Emmaus, I help to run the charity store van service, collecting and delivering furniture for customers. I've also been given the chance to gain some qualifications and have an NVQ Level 2 in Storage and Warehousing. I've not done much of that sort of thing in the past, so it was a great achievement for me.

Emmaus lets you take your time so I know that when I do leave, I'm ready for it. I don't want to go back to hostels or sleeping rough. I'd like to be given the chance to get my own accommodation if I can, and to find work.

Emmaus has helped me progress and achieve things I didn't think were possible. I've finally got a place to call home, for as long as I need it.

Help us change lives

If you would like to help us continue our work supporting formerly homeless people like Darren turn their lives around, you can donate online at: www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford/support-us/donate





Generous PPE donation from across the globe

We received a fantastic donation of 1,000 face masks, 240 pairs of protective goggles and 120 face shields from a city in Taiwan to help keep our companions safe.

The items were made by disabled or economically disadvantaged women in Tainan City as part of a project that helps them to sell their products to generate their own income. The women are delighted to have the opportunity to export their work overseas and to have friends in Oxford wearing them.

Thanks to receiving such a large donation, we are selling some of the masks on our Depop page. Solidarity is a huge part of Emmaus Oxford and all money raised from the sales will be donated to another local charity so we can help spread the generous support from Tainan even further in Oxford. Masks are being sold for £4 each or three for £10 on www.depop.com/oxford1.

Support Emmaus Oxford

Donate to us

We still need your donations of good quality unwanted household goods which we can sell on, but we are asking all of our donors to call before visiting the store. Please call our team on 01865 763 698 before visiting us and bear with us if we take a while to reply – we're getting a lot of calls and our small team will contact you as soon as we can.

Shop with us

By shopping with us you're not only picking up a bargain, you're also helping people who have been homeless. Please visit our store at 242 Barns Road, Cowley, OX4 3RQ. We're open Monday to Saturday 9:30am – 5pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm. We also sell our special and quirky items on eBay and DePop, so please check those out.

Become a friend

Making a regular donation of any size really helps us to plan and maintain our services. We appreciate donations of any size, and if you can give £10 a month or more we'll invite you to become a Friend of Emmaus Oxford. Find out more here: www.emmaus.org.uk/oxford/support-us/donate

Get in touch

Call 01865 763698 or visit us at emmaus.org.uk/oxford

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Emmaus Oxford is a registered charity number 1066618

