

Community Newsletter

Spring 2023



emmaus
Oxford
working together to end homelessness



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Big Give Christmas Campaign exceeds £20,000 target

We were overwhelmed after raising £22,570 through the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2022, which doubled every penny donated.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge was held from Tuesday 29 November to Tuesday 6 December and is the UK's biggest match-funding campaign, enabling good causes like ours to receive double the donations made by supporters.

Thanks to generous donors, we exceeded its £20,000 target to transform our new house into move-on accommodation for people we support who are ready for greater independence.

The donations were generously match-funded by the Helen and Michael Brown Trust and The Rowse Family Trust through The Big Give campaign, and further boosted by gift aid.

Eddie Blaze, Chief Executive of Emmaus Oxford said: "Our heartfelt thanks go to all who contributed and to the Helen and Michael Brown Trust and The Rowse Family Trust for doubling the donations through the Big Give, which made a huge impact on the amount raised."

working together to end homelessness

Emma + us = amazing support for Emmaus Oxford!

We're delighted to have received a donation of mattresses worth thousands of pounds from the world's leading direct-to-consumer sleep brand, Emma Sleep.

The Emma mattresses are available to purchase from our Emmaus Oxford eBay shop and proceeds will go to the ongoing costs of providing support to 28 formerly homeless people at our community home in Oxford Road, Cowley.

Chief Executive Eddie Blaze, said: "Huge thanks to Emma Sleep UK for their generous donation of a number of reconditioned mattresses to stock in our shops.

"They're in brand new condition and on sale now in our eBay store for a fraction of the retail price. Thank you, Emma. This donation will help us generate the income needed to provide a safe and stable home for those experiencing homelessness in Oxford."



Portacabin donation

This great new storage cabin is a welcome addition to our shop in Barns Road!

A huge thank you to the Morrisons Foundation for their generous grant for this unit which is providing us with much-needed space for donations.

The Morrisons Foundation supports charities like us who are making a positive difference in their local communities.

White goods appeal

We are appealing for donations of white goods to fulfil increasing demand for items such as electric ovens, washing machines, fridges, freezers, tumble dryers and dishwashers.

These need to be donated in a clean and sellable condition and should ideally be no older than three or four years, otherwise they are liable to fail their PAT electrical safety test.

Once we have seen photos of the items people are able to donate, we can arrange a free collection service.

We are unable to accept any gas appliances and any donated fridges or freezers must be in good condition as it costs us money to dispose of them if they fail their PAT test.

Companion Mick's story

“It’s massive when you come out of addiction and someone is telling you they can help you and you’re looking at the future and thinking I’ll have a chance to achieve my goals now, because of these people. It’s a real blessing.”

Since coming to Oxford the team have been brilliant and so supportive. I came here with a plan to do roofing and they got me on a CSCS course. If you need any help with funding or filling out forms, they do all this for you. I did six days at the college and I passed my tests, so the card has come through which is a massive plus.

There is also help available from the main Emmaus hub if a course will help further career opportunities and since coming here I looked into a roofing course doing lead work, which Emmaus funded. I go to Kent in February to do the course.

My plan is to work for a company and then look at perhaps becoming a sole trader in the future and thanks to Emmaus, this is all now achievable. Everything they do for me is fantastic.



Companion Fox's story

“Emmaus gives people the chance to restore their dignity, a reason to get up in the morning. For me, and most people I know in Emmaus, it is satisfying to know that you’ve done a day’s work and you’ve contributed to the community.”

I predominantly work in our very large charity shop (and thoroughly enjoy it), with one or two days a week cooking for the community of up to 24 companions.

The ethos here is very much one of progression. The staff are keen to help those who are ready to find employment and independent accommodation.

I currently chair our Solidarity Committee, which strives to assist less fortunate individuals and groups in our local community. Companions run a free food kitchen on a Thursday night where people can collect a free hot meal. I am in the process of becoming a reading assistant in local schools and I have enrolled in two courses in mental health which will, hopefully, lead to employment in this field.





Pet therapy comes to Emmaus Oxford!

They say that animals are the best therapy and this is proving to be the case since our support worker Michelle started bringing in her two new puppies to work!

The two cuties called Cooky (in front) and Zuri have been brightening up the lives of everyone in the community, including companion Karl seen here making a fuss of the French bulldog pups.

Michelle said: "I bring them to work with me as I am now doing dog walking with companions. This has been a great therapy for the companions and staff who cuddle and play with them. They really brighten up their day and calm them down when they feel anxious."

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 in at one of our branches.

Shop with us

We sell unique and amazing items at great prices. 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.

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

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