

Moravian Women's Association

Home & Overseas Paper – March 2015

St Basils – a charity which works with young people in Birmingham and Solihull

St Basils is a charity offering homeless prevention services, advice services, emergency accommodation, and supported accommodation, providing over 400 units of accommodation and support services which aim to build confidence and skills so young people can move on successfully.

St Basils supports a grand total of over 4000 young people per year, aged 16-25, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, with advice, prevention, accommodation, engagement and support services, to help young people regain the stability they need to rebuild their lives.

At any one time they have over 400 young people living in their supported accommodation schemes, which for some young people includes their young children as well. They have services tailored to support young residents to build confidence and re-enter education, training and employment to help them move on and be truly independent.

Schools Training and Mentoring Project (STaMP)

STaMP is one of the ways St Basil's engages with young people whilst they are still in school or education to raise their awareness of the causes of homelessness, to recognise the circumstances that can lead to homelessness and raise awareness of where to go to get help before situations escalate. Some of the young people they work with visit local schools as part of the STaMP programme along with staff members to tell their stories in school assemblies about how they became homeless or at risk of homelessness and where and how they got help. They also offer a peer mentoring service for any student in need of extra support.



Supported Accommodation

St Basil's has a total of 27 supported accommodation projects, 23 in Birmingham, 3 in Worcestershire and 1 in Solihull, which between them offer over 400 units of accommodation to both single young homeless people and young families with small children. Emergency accommodation for up to 3 months is also offered. Supported accommodation can be for up to 2 years. In fully supported accommodation projects staff are on site 24/7, and there are

varying degrees of semi-independent accommodation. They also have two designated mother and baby schemes, one is fully supported, the other semi-independent.

St Basil's aim is to ensure young people can live independently once they move on. They also have units of fully independent accommodation where there are no staff based on site but young people can call staff if they need them.



NightStop Scheme

The vision for Nightstop is that no young person should sleep in an unsafe place, ever. "Hosts" in the local community help to ensure young people in crisis have somewhere safe to stay. Nightstop Hosts provide emergency accommodation on a night by night basis and can claim up to £25 per night for expenses. Nightstop Hosts offer a spare room and allow access to their shower and washing machine to enable a young person to freshen up if they need to. Many Nightstop Hosts also provide a hot meal to the young person.

These are just a few examples of the work which St Basils undertakes.

“Good intentions are not enough.”

St Basil's are committed to getting the results that will truly have a lasting impact on the lives of their young people. They need to be equipped with the skills they need to break the cycle of exclusion and homelessness. This year St Basil's need to raise £700,000 to support all their young residents to move on successfully. They rely on charitable donations to provide intensive support to the young residents in the supported accommodation projects and for the Learning, Skills and Work service which is an integral part of helping young people move on successfully.

This year, the MWA has given £500 to St Basil's.

Naomi Hancock