



Providing comfort and friendship to
refugees and asylum seekers
Registered Charity No. 1162226

www.wtrrp.org.uk
01923 252434

NEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2015

**Please note our new
address:**

**PO Box 2474, Watford
WD18 1XT**

It's official: WTRRP is a Registered Charity

WTRRP has experienced some landmark moments over the years, and confirmation we are now a registered charity is certainly one of them. Charitable status marks a new line in the sand, presents new opportunities and opens more doors to negotiate new paths of funding to enable us to put our front foot forward for helping our growing list of clients.

Funding for all organisations is a continual preoccupation, and so we will be extremely grateful to those donors who can now gift aid

their donations as this will make a real difference to our finances. A gift aid form will soon be available and will be sent to you. Renewed thanks for your contributions.

Our successful registration is just the start, we need to continue doing what we do well – befriending our vulnerable clients (now approaching 70) who need all the help they can get. Faith and hope don't run charities. So the Trustees, and some senior members of the WTRRP team, met recently to set our future priorities. The photo below shows us getting down to business!



It was a good to set time aside to focus on how we need to adapt and measure up to support the growth in clients that need our help year on year. We will be heightening therefore our visibility and awareness of what we do by sharpening our statements and developing a social media presence.

Also in the pipeline is an overhaul of our food collection, packing, and distribution procedures. On our radar is more advice and support to our clients as well as increased training and supervision for our dedicated volunteers, especially those who give direct help to the very vulnerable clients.

So it is fair to say that you will hear more about these priority areas over the coming weeks, months and at the February 2016 AGM.

Garden party a la crème!

With tea, classic scones and a beautiful garden to stroll in, the annual WTRRP garden party held on Sunday 7 June was the usual relaxed affair. Once again WTRRP returned to the Cheslyn Gardens in perfect weather with sunglasses and sunhats the dress code for the day!

Supporters, clients and volunteers mingled and took time to get to know one another over delicious scones, clotted cream and strawberry jam. Yet amongst the chatter, there was time and space to slip away and explore the delightful

garden and woodland with its unusual plants and hidden gems. Whatever the background, culture or experiences of those who attended, everyone was united in the view that that Cheslyn Gardens is a very peaceful setting, perfect for this very traditional British affair!

A sincere thank you to all who came and contributed to making this yet another memorable WTRRP garden party for all involved.



Talent for raising money!

Two of our volunteers (Seema Agnihotri and Jenny Staines), together with a good friend, held a charity concert (Watford's Got Talent) on Saturday 14 March to raise funds for WTRRP, Peace Hospice and New Hope. Local stars took to the stage at Cassiobury Junior School and richly entertained a packed audience from the local community.

All the performers gave their time to have their 'moment in the spotlight' to support these three local charities as did the sound specialists from 'Rockin the Boat'. The head of Cassiobury Junior school kindly provided all the facilities free. A magnificent £671 was raised for WTRRP. Watford has generous people as well as a lot of 'talentintown'!

GIFTS from your Harvest Celebration

Are you able to spare some tinned and other items this year from your Harvest event?

This is what we need

Food cupboard

baked beans
biscuits
cereals
coffee
fish
fruit, custard,
rice pudding
meat (tinned)
milk
pasta
pasta sauce
pulses
rice
soup
sweetcorn
tea
tuna fish (tinned)
tomatoes (tinned)
vegetables (tinned)

Household/healthcare

deodorant
nappies – all sizes
shampoo
shower gel
toilet rolls
toothbrushes
washing powder/gel
washing up liquid

Every month there is pressure on our stocks with demand for 35+ food parcels each month now outstripping supply.

While we now have food shortages in all areas, our cupboards are often bare of tinned meat, tinned tuna fish, sweetcorn and coffee.

Once again we are joining with the Foodbank and New Hope for a combined Harvest campaign as well as continuing with our own ongoing appeals for donations for our food parcels from the list shown.

We are extremely grateful for all items donated – we do appreciate it!

Could you be this versatile volunteer?

Are you thinking of volunteering for WTRRP? You would be joining what is already an international and multi-lingual partnership here in the UK.

We are always in need of more volunteers, but especially someone to help us increase our resources (more information below). This will enable WTRRP to continue to make a significant difference to the lives of our clients.

We need YOU

Are you available to volunteer for a few hours per month?

Are you looking to get more involved with those who are destitute in our local community?

An adaptable addition to our team is needed to help with:

- applying for grants and other sources of funding
- inspiring more supporters
- shaping our promotional activities

**Please contact: Marie-Jo Churchill on
07955440701 or
email churchill@bri4it.co.uk**

Telling your story

The story about 'the Boy' in the spring newsletter has made popular reading! So in our newsletters, we plan to give our clients and volunteers an opportunity to unlock more of the stories inside them. Even the smallest details can be revealing and provide the threads to understanding how they have become one of our clients or a volunteer.

Here is the story from one of our latest volunteer recruits – she is called Anya (not her real name) from Afghanistan. She speaks Dari, Pashto and Farsi – the three most widespread languages spoken in Afghanistan, and has a good command of English. A refugee herself, she comes with 18 years of experience working for an international charity in Kabul. The charity's main concern is the relief of hunger worldwide and it has offices in many countries including the UK. English was the common language for its multi-lingual team – hence her proficiency in English.

Anya also attends the ESOL class at the WTRRP Drop-in Centre at St Johns Church and frequently has the dual role of learner and interpreter.

WTRRP is particularly happy to welcome Anya as volunteer/befriender/interpreter at a very opportune time for one family in the area. The young family with children aged from three to seven recently relocated from Afghanistan to the UK for security reasons.

Despite their initial isolation the family are adapting quickly to the British way of life, with its language, food, climate and schooling. The father, a major in the Afghan army, speaks English but his wife needed help especially with antenatal appointments at the hospital. Anya offered to help accompany the wife which was welcomed by the father and the expectant mother.

Anya is a mother herself, but her family are still in Afghanistan. On arrival in the UK she was provided with accommodation in Leeds and worked there as a translator with Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Determined to be occupied with purposeful work, she also hopes to work in the UK office of the relief of hunger charity where she previously worked in Kabul.



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