

**Newsletter**  
May 2020

**New Hope**

**PREVENTING  
HOMELESSNESS.  
TRANSFORMING  
LIVES.**

CORONAVIRUS  
**CRISIS  
RESPONSE** 

**INSIDE** DISCOVER HOW NEW HOPE  
RESPONDED TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

# HOW DO YOU STAY HOME WHEN YOU HAVE NO HOME?



**As the scale of the coronavirus crisis began to emerge, the staff at NewHope began to ask these questions:**

**? *How can you wash your hands for 20 seconds when you don't have a bathroom?***

**? *How can you self-isolate when you have no space to call your own?***

**? *How can you stay home when you have no home to go to?***

Quickly, a solution emerged and the staff at New Hope worked tirelessly with Watford Borough Council, One YMCA and Dean Russell MP to ensure that over 80 people who were rough sleeping were housed in temporary accommodation in the town, including One YMCA's Charter House and the Travelodge on Exchange Road.

We then began distributing three meals a day (seven days a week) to all those in temporary accommodation as well as supporting the few individuals who chose to remain sleeping rough. Alongside the meals, our staff and volunteers provided crucial support with mental health and substance misuse.





Give online  
[www.newhope.org.uk/appeal](http://www.newhope.org.uk/appeal)

Cheques can be sent to

## CORONAVIRUS APPEAL

New Hope, 67 Queens Road,  
Watford, WD17 2QN.

Thank you.

➤ **Please, if you are able - and we realise many people have been hit hard by this crisis - make a donation today to help us cover the costs of supporting supporting people who are in temporary accommodation.**



At the start of this year, we worked with a local company, Think About It Films, to create a short film which we intended to show at our 30th anniversary celebration on 23 March.

Think About It Films kindly adapted the film to reflect our response to the coronavirus crisis. Please take a moment to watch it.

[www.newhope.org.uk/placesofsafety](http://www.newhope.org.uk/placesofsafety)

# Generous Givers

Thank you to everyone who has given to New Hope during this exceptionally challenging time.

**A special mention to:**

Gokula Café, GoDharmic and Stanmore Temple (under the umbrella of Sewa Day) who have all been providing hot meals for us to distribute daily to those in temporary accommodation.

NL Property who donated 100 phones so the Street Outreach Service could stay in touch with people.

Impact on the Streets who have donated cereal, sleeping bags and clothing.

Wenzel's who are giving us loaves of bread and bottles of water every day.

SOS Supplies who donated crucial PPE.

Everyone who has already given to our Coronavirus Crisis appeal, including the TK Maxx and Homesense Foundation, the Mayor's Small Grant Fund and Hertfordshire Community Foundation.







ASDA  
Aston Farm,  
Bedford  
Bee Creative  
Bushey  
Synagogue  
Bushey Gives  
Back  
Chamber of  
Commerce/  
Chamber of  
Conscience  
Costco  
D20 Board Game  
Café  
Eat Fruit Office  
Gama Healthcare  
Gazebo Fine  
Foods Ltd  
Get Fresh  
Go Dharmic  
Gourmet Burger  
Kitchen  
Hamilton's  
Catering  
Hammock  
Hatfield House  
Holiday Inn  
Hosting for  
the Hungry  
Hygiene Bank  
IGT  
Impact on the  
Streets  
JayD Meats  
Joe and the Juice  
Medik8  
Medivet  
Meeting  
needs.2017  
Morrisons  
NL Property  
Northwood and  
Pinner Liberal  
Synagogue  
Northwood HQ  
Ocado  
Oxhey Village  
Environmental  
Group  
Pizza Hut  
Premier Foods  
Random Café  
Residents of  
Denmark Street  
Sai Group  
Sainsbury's  
Sewa Day  
SOS supplies  
Soul Survivor  
Square Pizza  
St Helen's  
Church  
Stanmore Temple  
Shree  
Swaminarayan  
Temple Willesden  
Swaminarayan  
Gurukul Rajkot  
Tesco  
The Corner Plaice  
The Red House  
TJX Europe  
Vegetarian  
Express Ltd  
Watford &  
Bushey Covid-19  
Mutual Aid  
Watford Borough  
Council  
Watford Field  
Junior School  
Watford  
Foodbank  
Watford Mencap  
Wenzel's the  
Bakers  
West Herts  
College  
...and others!

# Right and Wrong

These words were written by Craig, Janet Hosier's son, to be read out at the 30th Birthday Celebration service which was due to take place on 23 March.

**“ I’m trying to imagine what Mum would say to you if she were here right now, but I’m struggling.**

Instead I’m remembering the time, a long way back when New Hope was just starting out, when Mum decided that she would open up our home and invite some of the men she called “the boys” around. I liked those days, and so did my friends. If we came home from school and saw bottles of cider lined up outside the front door, we knew it meant that

Dublin John, Tommy Busby, Billy the Glue and Pete Floyd would be inside. They’d be sitting at the kitchen table, smoking roll ups and drinking tea while Mum opened the windows and fussed by the sink. My

friends and I would take turns to ask all the typical questions that any sixteen year old would want to know. What’s it like in prison? How do you roll a joint? Is it easy to steal a car?

It was all kinds of wrong, but Mum would just laugh, say “oh boys!” and ask if anyone wanted any more tea.

There were so many other things about those early days that wouldn’t be standard practice for New Hope today. Like Mum and I going out late at night to visit one of the men in his bedsit when he was going through a hard





time. Or Mum serving non-alcoholic beer at summer barbecues and telling the guys “you see, you don’t need alcohol, do you?”

It’s right that New Hope has changed. It’s right that you’ve got policies and procedures in place to protect everyone involved. It’s right that you have dedicated yourselves to learning how to get better at helping. And it’s right that as a result, New Hope has been recognised for the great work that you have done and the lives that you have changed.

But maybe it’s okay not to be perfect. Maybe it’s okay to know less today than

you will tomorrow. Maybe it’s okay to feel the need to have to adapt to a changing landscape.

By her own admission, Mum got a fair few things wrong in life. But she knew this: that treating people with love and kindness, offering respect and dignity, sharing time and resources, could never be wrong. It could only ever be right.

Maybe that’s what she’s say if she were here today.

That, and **thank you.**”

**Craig Borlase**  
son of the late Janet Hosier



# HOPE

THE  
Little  
BOOK  
OF

HOPE

I was given the scripture below by a member of staff in the Community Home while I was living there many years ago it meant nothing to me at the time.

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”** Jeremiah 29:11-13

In 2014 when I was told I was dying (because my liver was packing in due to my alcoholism), I had to get on my knees and cry out to the God I did not believe in.

**“If you are real do not let me die”**

I realise now I was seeking him wholeheartedly. He was listening and that night I found my Lord and Saviour. That was five years ago. I am alive, healthy, reunited with my family and working in a job I love.

**John, New Hope staff**



HOPE

NEW  
HOPE

An inspiring snippet of prayer from Paul's letter to the early Church:

**I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Romans 15:13**

Paul's prayer reminds me of where hope really comes from - the God who made us. He is the source. This is my experience, and that of literally billions of people across the globe: When Jesus transforms us with His love, He fills us to overflowing with a confident hope which is the most powerful force this world has ever seen. Real pure hope, straight from the Source!

**Rev Tim Roberts, Patron**

10

Jesus and  
truth and  
John 14:6

These words  
found in a  
medicine'  
Hope comes  
Jesus does  
way,' he said  
relationship  
Since beginning  
found guidance  
and life as  
same would  
wanted to



If you would like a copy of the Little Book of Hope, please email Rebecca on [rpalmer@newhope.org.uk](mailto:rpalmer@newhope.org.uk) or read online at [www.newhope.org.uk/littlebookofhope](http://www.newhope.org.uk/littlebookofhope).

# Life-saving provision

This winter's shelter opened on 1 December and was due to run until the end of March. We made the decision to close the shelter early (the last night was 15 March) because of concerns about coronavirus transmission.



Without a doubt, the Watford Winter Shelter saved lives this winter in its provision of a warm and safe place to stay.

Thank you to Watford Borough Council who secured the funding from the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government and to One YMCA who provided the venue.

60 people volunteered over the three months including Dan Voller who was awarded a Watford Observer Community Hero award.

Ekta Gurney, HR and Volunteering Officer, said: **“He always covers if someone cannot make a shift at the last minute. The people coming to the shelter know Dan and trust him - he has a heart of gold.”**



**“ I was dreading my first night, but the Winter Shelter was much cleaner and friendlier than I could have imagined. The staff and volunteers were always fantastic and professional. It was actually a welcome relief at the end of another tedious day walking the streets. ”**





“ I have found it humbling to work with such amazing people, both the New Hope volunteers and the people they support. There are people from all walks of life that have found themselves in a fix, some still working in the day but with nowhere to go at night – so sad to see but unfortunately that’s the reality. I’m thankful for the Winter Shelter, it’s really crucial and the value is clear. ”

Chris, volunteer

“ I can keep warm and dry when I’m in here. ”

111  
different people used the shelter for at least one night



“ This place keeps me alive. ”





## Never too young to make a difference!

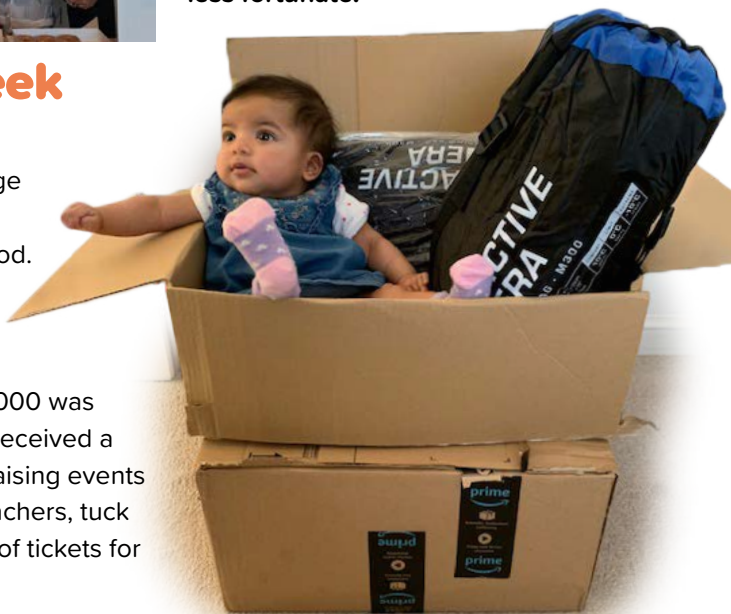
Baby Amaya Shah (along with her parents Natasha and Niraj) raised £520 to purchase high quality blankets and durable water-resistant sleeping bags.

Amaya (with some help!) wrote on her crowdfunding page: **“I woke up this morning and thought, brrr it’s really cold...whilst lying in my warm bed. I then thought how lucky and grateful I am to have a bed, with a roof over my head, and how there are others less fortunate.”**



## Charities Week Success!

We would like to say a huge thank you to St Clement Danes School, Chorleywood. New Hope was one of four charities supported by the school’s annual Charities Week. Over £10,000 was raised and so New Hope received a cheque for £2,609. Fundraising events including “kidnapping” teachers, tuck shops, as well as the sale of tickets for the Sixth Form revue.



**Josi Zane** is our Fundraising and Communications Officer.

Please get in touch with Josi on [jjane@newhope.org.uk](mailto:jjane@newhope.org.uk) or **01923 227 132** if you would like to find out more about fundraising for New Hope.



## Breakfast help

In February, three members of staff from local traffic management firm Gotocsp helped staff and long-standing volunteers serve a full English breakfast to over 40 individuals currently receiving support from the Rough Sleeping Prevention Service. Gotocsp also donated £80 to cover the cost of this essential hot meal.

The team took down orders, cooked breakfast and handed out humanitarian items, such as toiletries and clothes. The team described the experience as “eye-opening” and felt warmly welcomed by those having breakfast as well as staff and volunteers.



## The Big CAE Walk

On 7th February, a team from CAE Technology Services walked from their Watford HQ via New Hope’s Watford charity shop to their London office...and then back again! Starting at 4am, the team walked 40 miles in 13 hours and raised £3,217.07 for New Hope!

Organised by Mo Nasser who described the challenge: **“The task is immense. It represents a physical and mental challenge in multiple ways.**

**Nonetheless these challenges are insignificant when compared with the brutal reality of living on the streets.**

**Isolation, vulnerable, cold, hunger, deprivation, humiliation, loneliness, hardship, unsafe are only a few words we came across while getting familiar with the cause.”**

## New home, new hope

For many people who have had experience of homelessness, moving into your own home isn’t always fun and a celebration. It can be isolating, frustrating and challenging.

Many generous and kind individuals have donated items of furniture and bought house-warming gifts from our Amazon wish-list, including Vinci Construction who bought over £500 worth of items to help people make a new start in their new homes.



# Tee-rrific donation!



“ Founded in 1940, the West Watford Golfing Society is one of the oldest golf societies in Hertfordshire. We hold a number of social events throughout the year culminating in our charity day in December which is always very well attended with over 100 golfers. We have a competitive round of golf followed by a meal and charity auction.

Over the years the society has raised over £431,000 which has been donated to local charities, including New Hope which we have supported with an annual donation for

Christmas dinners. However given these unprecedented times we felt it right to further these donations for support towards the coronavirus crisis.

Current Captain Mark Thomas and Society Secretary Lee Fitzgerald have

combined charity funds from the Society to be able to donate a further

£3,000 for New Hope. We wanted to give this money specifically for the Haven Support Centre in memory of Lee's brother,

Alex, who was supported by the team there. ”



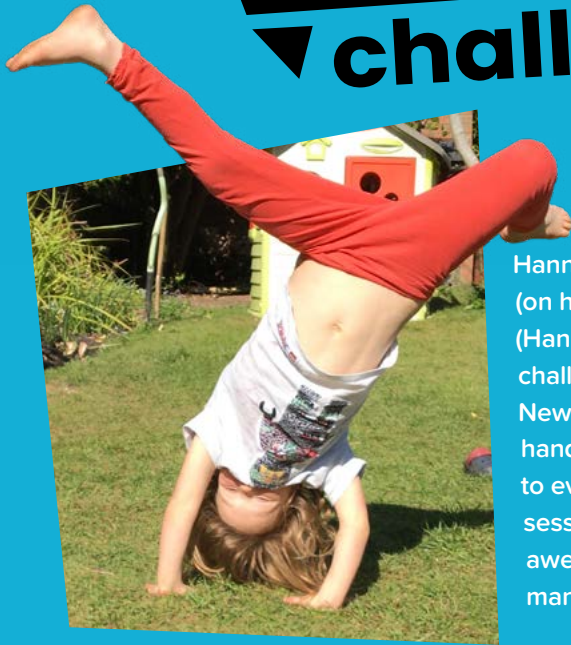


the

2.6

THANK  
YOU!

▼ challenge



## Hooray for the Hawes family!

The Hawes family (Charlotte, Chris, Hannah, Freddie and Rosie) led by Hannah (on her 5th birthday) and Freddie (Hannah's brother) completed 26 challenges 26 times and raised £488 for New Hope. The challenges included handstands, press-ups, kangaroos (familiar to everyone who has done Joe Wicks' PE sessions!), laps of the garden and the awesome-sounding 'flying-superwomen/man-over-your-mum-on-her-feet'!

## Walking the extra mile!

Melanie Harcourt, a long-term supporter and friend of New Hope, decided to walk a mile every day for 26 days as her 2.6 challenge and has already raised £731.22!



# NewHope

# CORONAVIRUS Crisis Appeal



Give online  
**[www.newhope.org.uk/appeal](http://www.newhope.org.uk/appeal)**

Cheques can be sent to  
**CORONAVIRUS  
APPEAL**

New Hope, 67 Queens Road,  
Watford, WD17 2QN.

**Thank you.**



## New Hope

67 Queens Road, Watford,  
Herts, WD17 2QN



## Call

01923 210 680



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