



West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network (C.I.O.)
Registered Charity Number 1158052
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WYDAN NEWSLETTER - Spring 2022

Dear Colleagues, Friends and Supporters,

In recent weeks we've experienced horrendous storms, wind and rain and been very grateful for comfort and safety of our own warm secure homes. By supporting charities such as WYDAN you enable people with the most urgent need of such warmth and security to have a place to stay and the warmth and support they need. Thank you for the support and encouragement you continue to give. We hope that these brief updates will encourage you to continue that support. Please share this newsletter with anyone you think may be interested.

WYDAN's Emergency Accommodation

With the funds from two successful grant applications WYDAN have been able to provide emergency guest house accommodation for 12 people (up to 6 at any given time). We've received requests such as this: "**..... is facing street homelessness this evening in Leeds. Are you able to accommodate him?**" and happily we've been able to say "Yes"



Asylum Seekers : People like you and me

Unfortunately, this funding for this provision at the Guest House ends at 31st March, when WYDAN will work with partner organisations to try and find suitable places for our current guests to move into.

We are now actively seeking a suitable property, in which to provide better and less costly emergency accommodation option next winter – and of course, seeking the funding to make it possible.

WYDAN'S More Settled Accommodation

It has been great to have this provision up and running. We have two, four bedroomed properties, one in Harehills and one in Beeston. and a two bedroomed flat in Harehills. These are all now well-established homes, with a feeling of warmth, safety, security and sanctuary. Our guests are supported by a fantastic team of volunteers who provide allowances, shopping and befriending to all of our guests.



Guests prepare and enjoy their own food

A guest who recently moved into one of the houses was asked how he was settling in, his response: "**I just can't tell you how much it means, now I start my life again.**" From this secure base a number of our guests are managing to press forward with their asylum claims and move on into government accommodation, leaving space for someone else to benefit from a settled situation.

WYDAN'S Partnerships Though WYDAN have no formal partnership agreements with other organisations, we are active members of NACCOM (The No Accommodation Network) and Housing Justice through which we keep abreast of national trends and innovative ideas from similar projects.

Closer to home, WYDAN work closely with the Support Workers at PAFRAS and Red Cross to ensure that the asylum seekers we accommodate and support are in real need of, and suitable for, the accommodation and support WYDAN can provide.

Through informal links and through active involvement in Leeds Migration Partnership and other initiatives, WYDAN seek to ensure that the provision we make is complimentary to that provided by other local charities such as LASSN, St Monica's, LEDAS and Abigail Housing.



We're strongest when we work together

WYDAN's links with churches, other faith and community groups, which were critical to the operation of the Night Shelter in former years, continue to be vital to the ongoing wellbeing and success of the project. In some instances, these links have remained strong (particularly with the Methodist Church) in others the links have weakened – We hope to be able to re-energise those areas of support.

Fundraise for WYDAN A Lent Fundraising Appeal accompanies this Newsletter, which we hope will be widely shared. But there are many ways in which supporters can help us raise the funds necessary to keep WYDAN's work going. Some groups have arranged coffee mornings or similar events, some churches have held special collections. One schoolteacher supporter inspired a whole school to learn about the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and to raise funds by running round the playground. Another supporter is planning a sponsored walk.



What can this little piggy do?

Some raise large amounts of money, most are much smaller scale, but put together with the grant monies that WYDAN will continue to be able to secure, they make the much needed work possible and at the same time spread understanding of asylum seeker issues.

Volunteering Opportunity We are looking for a volunteer to help us develop the marketing of WYDAN through our newsletter, website and social media in order to promote the work of WYDAN, to attract new volunteers, support existing volunteers and increase engagement. This role would involve working with other staff, volunteers and the IT consultant. Please email shelter@wydan.org

Donations are always welcome!

By post to WYDAN, c/o Andrew Rathbone, 256B Burley Road, Leeds LS4 2LA, cheques made payable to WYDAN.

Direct to the WYDAN's bank account no 20323123.
Sort code 60-83-01.

Online via the Charities Aid Foundation platform
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15943>

Gift Aid: Please let us know if we can claim gift aid on any donation (provide first line of address and postcode).

A small number of supporters make regular donations by Standing Order. We would love more people to consider support in this way.



It always comes down to this

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT