

Dear Andrew and Doreen,

We may not have been able to do all that we had planned this Christmas (a festive meal at our day centre), but thank we wanted to thank you for your kind and ongoing donations which are always gratefully received.

On Christmas Day itself we were able to provide around 40 individuals with Christmas dinner, gifts and care packages. We did this from our central base, Unity Park Station, and made special deliveries to a local hotel and another emergency accommodation venue where many of the homeless have been placed by the Council at this time. This is about more than a logistical delivery of food, as it sends the message that they are not forgotten.

The winter is not just about Christmas though, and we are so grateful for your support at this extremely challenging time. With the majority of the homeless placed into emergency rooms but the Council we have been working hard to provide daytime support services centring around welfare support and food provision. This includes people such as:

- A lady in her 50s with no other option to sleep in her car in freezing temperatures
- A gentleman with a dog who could not find any form of accommodation that would allow him to keep his dog – we managed to find a suitable home locally for him and his dog and cover their first month's rent and deposit
- Individuals who had been sleeping outside the train station (primarily because the CCTV there helped them feel safe), we managed to find onward accommodation for them and one has been attending regular addiction therapy services at Unity Park Station
- Someone fleeing an abusive landlord

We have been providing hot meals and drinks, food cupboard essentials, toiletries and clothing, and our welfare team have been providing help to people with access to benefits, medical care and counselling/therapy, and help with recovering ID, opening bank accounts and finding longer-term accommodation. At the point of writing this to you, this week alone they have been able to move 5 people into longer-term accommodation. We have been working with one entrenched rough sleeper who doesn't wish to be housed, but told us that he is so grateful to the Winter Night Shelter as we are keeping him alive this winter.

Please find attached our latest video which show our Christmas efforts.

https://youtu.be/_ofyV9M3yPk

Feel free to forward this mail to all involved and to show our gratitude especially during these difficult times.

We can't do what we do without the kind support of those who give, so thank you for partnering with us.

Stay safe,

Karen

Karen Cobbett
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Website: www.winternightsheltermk.com

See how we make a difference: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lWm3OkRAUc&feature=youtu.be
<https://youtu.be/47RMD09qvq8>

To donate: www.justgiving.com/winternightsheltermiltonkeynes

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