



Churches Together in the Merseyside Region

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From the 'Support for Asylum Seekers' Co-ordinator
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SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS S.A.S

Dear Friends,

Report – May 2015

The year started with the sad news of the death of Joseph Graham Raws, the former Co-ordinator for SAS. Known most affectionately to all as "Chas" he gave wholehearted and unstinting support for many years to SAS and Asylum Link Merseyside and he is greatly missed by all who knew him. His memorial service was both humbling and uplifting, with many people bearing witness to his life and accomplishments. Specifically, some former asylum seekers and refugees spoke of the difference Chas had made to their lives, either directly or indirectly. Chas's daughter Alex kindly asked for any donations in Chas's name to be made to SAS. This was a most welcome gesture and I would like to thank Chas's family and all donors for the total raised of nearly £2,800.

Chas, dear friend, rest in peace.

I shall continue to act as Co-ordinator for SAS until further notice. The Destitution Manager at ALM is now Jannatul Chowdhury, and I look forward to liaising with Jannatul in the future.

Financial Statements

Attached is a summary statement of financial activities for the 3 months period to March 2015 with draft figures for the full year to December 2014, grouped under relevant headings of income and expenditure.

We received a large grant in November 2014 of £22k which explains the positive net resources for 2014 of £23,849. This has quickly been eroded in the first three months of 2015, with a net outgo of £5,233. We clearly need to explore all avenues for raising funds in 2015 and also manage the limited funds we have on grants and accommodation as effectively as we can. This is not an appeal letter but of course any donations [i.e. clothes, toiletries, funds] for SAS are always welcome.

Presidents

The Most Rev'd Malcolm McMahon, The Archbishop of Liverpool
The Right Rev'd Paul Bayes, The Bishop of Liverpool
The Rev'd Dr Sheryl M Anderson, Chair of the Liverpool Methodist District
The Rev'd Jacky Embrey, Moderator of the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church
The Rev'd Phil Jump, Regional Minister, North West Baptist Association
Major Drew McCombe, North-Western Divisional Commander, Salvation Army

(Churches Together in the Merseyside Region is a registered charity, No.519061)

Grants Paid Out

While funds permit, SAS is continuing to support the costs of the ALM Destitution Manager's salary equivalent to one day per week.

We currently finance three properties accommodating 7 women in one house, and 8 men in the other two houses. There are another three people who urgently need emergency accommodation. We have just one host family at the moment to help with temporary emergency accommodation.

ALM deliver weekly grants to the destitute as well as daily breakfast [usually porridge], a hot lunch, toiletries, donated clothes and furniture where possible.

In addition to the ones we house, there are between 40 and 45 destitute people receiving food and toiletries each week. Between 100 and 120 people receive hot meals per day.

Other miscellaneous grants paid out include:

- train/bus fares for asylum registration, court appearances etc
- weekly bus passes
- council tax, utility meter top-ups
- Probation support

Other News

- Our two pregnant destitute women safely gave birth, one in November and one on Christmas Eve 2014 – how poignant is that! Some things never change.

- ALM have just successfully bid for a grant to enable the St Anne's Centre where ALM manage the Destitution Project to be accessible to users five days per week, Monday to Friday, instead of the current four days. Once this is up and running destitute people will no longer have to wait from Thursday evening to Monday morning to access help. Not perfect but services will be effectively increased by 25%.

- From 26th January 2015 the Home Office requires all failed asylum seekers who submit further submissions must do so in person in Liverpool. Desperate people, wherever they have been dispersed in the UK, will be travelling here, without assistance or support.

- The current images and stories surrounding the plight of thousands of people crossing the Mediterranean to Europe are truly shocking. No doubt over the coming weeks and months some of these unfortunate people will find their way to Merseyside. SAS must and will do what we can as ever to support all those who present themselves at the door of ALM, but more funds will need to be found.

Thank you again for the financial support to SAS from individuals [including 28 standing orders and some anonymous], groups, churches, charitable trusts and organisations over the reported period. Your continued support over the coming months and year will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards

Neil

Neil Cunningham

Support for Asylum Seekers
 CTMR – Churches Together in the Merseyside Region
 Registered Charity Number 519061

Statement of Financial Activities
for the three months period to 31 March 2015

	Total 2015	Total 2014
Incoming Resources		
Grants from Organisations	0	58,335
Individual Donations	3,799	4,440
	3,799	62,775
Resources Expended		
Accommodation	4,837	20,233
Destitution Support	3,293	15,632
ALM Management		
Grant	902	2,186
Probation Grants for Asylum seekers	0	875
	9,032	38,926
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources	(5,233)	23,849
Fund Balances		
At 1 January 2015	26,615	2,765
At 31 March 2015	21,382	26,615
Represented By :		
Bank Balances @ 31 March 2015	21380	26615