



Press Release

13 November 2006

Homeless charity appeals for donations at Christmas.

Staff at a Wellingborough homeless charity are appealing for donations towards their Christmas Appeal 2006.

Mayday Trust provides accommodation, support and life-skills training for homeless people, and those in need of specialist support. As with all homeless organisations Mayday realises that Christmas can be a very difficult time for our residents. More often than not, when people come to Mayday their personal relationships have broken down. Limited incomes, low self-esteem and absence of loved-ones combine to create a miserable festive season.

In a bid to combat this atmosphere, staff hope to lay on a Christmas meal for residents. Funds permitting they also try to provide small gifts/hampers for all residents. To this end, the Project are keen to receive donations of all shapes and sizes. Grants, cash, product donations and store vouchers are all useful.

Although the weekly accommodation charge and Supporting People (a department of central government which funds and monitors supported housing) payments cover Mayday's core work, the costs of all discretionary work – including Christmas activities – must be fundraised.

Mayday in Wellingborough

Bassett's Court, Wellingborough, is nearing the end of a Major Refurbishment. The property, owned by Leicester Housing Association, is undergoing a £2.5million conversion. The redevelopment has been possible thanks to a large grant from the Housing Corporation. Mayday fundraisers have been responsible for raising more than £50k for white goods and furniture in the new building. Phase II of the build has recently been completed with 31 bedsits and new staff facilities in operation. Work has now moved to the communal areas with the build on course for its spring completion.

Staff and residents at Mayday Trust's Wellingborough Scheme, based at Bassett's Court, West Street will be celebrating their 21st Birthday in 2007. The Scheme hopes to celebrate these momentous achievements with a grand reopening later next year. With an average Project-stay of 9 months the *Wellingborough Project* has supported over 800 vulnerable people in Wellingborough since we opened our doors!

In addition Mayday's Janus Scheme – a partnership between Mayday Trust and Wellingborough Borough Council, providing short-term accommodation for pregnant women and young families – has been extended. The Project now manages 40 properties in the town, ranging from 1-bedroom flats to 3-bedroom houses, and caters for a wide range of vulnerable young families.

Ends