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Dear Prayer Supporters

As Christmas approaches at speed (my children are banned from discussing it until December!) I often think about how much we have to be grateful for. But also how little some of the women have in terms of basic emotional support, let alone practical support.

God's promise

All the staff are working hard to make our services as Christmassy as we can. At a time when women can feel isolated, lonely and on the outside, we show them something of how much we love them. The van will go out on Christmas Eve and there are Christmas activities planned including singing, dancing and ice-skating! We give thanks for these women; please pray that they see God's promise of goodness.

...shall never fail...

Sadly, the van has had some faults and has needed to go to the garage a few times. And some volunteers have been unable to make shifts. We know how much women value consistency and how much outreach is needed; it's invaluable and we're so grateful to those who volunteer. Please pray for the safety and the health of volunteers and that the van returns to its reliable self.

but will be fulfilled

Our Peony programme is beginning to flourish! The team have been making Christmas cards and are getting really positive feedback from those women who are attending. Recently, Peony women made some lip balms to give to women at drop-in. We know there are more women who would benefit and who need to take their first step into the warm welcome that Peony offers. Please pray that they might build the courage to do this.

Finally I am so pleased to be able to tell you the fantastic news that we have been given a full grant by Bristol City Council to run our Pause Bristol programme for another 18 month cycle. We look forward to the new cohort of women starting in December. Please pray for their readiness and for their healing - and thank God for his abundance!

Praying regularly for specific women

Please pray for our wonderful prayer volunteers: Liz, Liz and Isapela. They faithfully and tenderly minister to women and to staff week after week. Even staff who don't have a faith say they feel specially held by something bigger.

As part of their prayer with women, they've been waiting for the right time to ask those who are ready if they would like to share their needs via this letter with One25's praying community. It is an enormous step for many to expose their lives in this way but we trust that they will trust and we have faith in their faith.

Shirley is doing amazing work with her 1:1 counselling but is reliving some of her past trauma. Her emotional health is putting her tenancy at real risk and this place of her own is very important to her stability and creativity. Please pray that she has the tenacity to keep accepting support and the strength to keep working through each day's challenges.

*...my Word that goes out from my mouth
will not return to me empty
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

(Isaiah 1:52-53)

Thank you for all of your prayers throughout 2018. I wish you a very happy Christmas.



Anna Smith
Chief Executive Officer