

Autumn 2019 prayer letter



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Dear Prayer Supporters

We've recently had a visit from one of our key funders, the Oak Foundation. The group of five delegates included the Foundation's president! They were very interested in our approach of working *with* women, not *on* them. They praised our pilot work and took time to really understand the realities of life for the women, particularly their lack of safe housing. Our visitors specifically asked about our hopes for the future and we talked to them about supporting women into employment and training for women, when they are ready.

Following this we were so pleased to be asked to make another long-term funding bid. So we've been working incredibly hard to submit an 'ambitious' request for support, as requested. Please pray that this is well received. It would help secure all our services and enable us to continue developing services which best meet women's needs.

Learning and commitment

We're sad to say that the lately the van has missed a few nights. Please ask for God's protection around the volunteers who make this happen, that the love they offer at night is consistently there for women where they can feel most threatened and alone.

We are working hard to train new drivers and team leaders for our van outreach service – it can't go out without them. We've had a high number of new applications so we need to make sure they are well trained. With the support and encouragement of our volunteer coordinator Amelia, we pray that these new recruits will become skilled members of our teams.

So we want to give thanks to all of our volunteers who just turn up, make shifts happen and smile. But especially to those who have stepped in over the summer to cover shifts whilst others have been on holiday or looking after children. Thanks to God who reveals to us, through the commitment and kindness of others, the pattern of divine love.

Welcome, energy and safety

Please pray for our new drop-in support worker, Amy Bridges, as she transitions from volunteer to being the third permanent staff member in drop-in. Also for our new

services manager Kate D'Arcy to settle in – she'll be overseeing Pause and Peony which will relieve Jenny Riley of some of her significant workload. Also pray for the women who the Pause team are reaching out to – that they make the next step and sign up for full support. One woman at Pause was in crisis lately and had to seek an emergency refuge so please pray for her safety, that she has hope and knows peace.

Held on to

Peony has now been running for a year and has worked with 51 women. We are so proud of the programme and the women who have been brave enough to step into a new venue and take up new interests. It's achieving what it set out to: working with women who are recovering and helping them build self-esteem and independence. Some have had relapses but we have held them through this. And one recently secured a job. Happy Birthday and long may Peony continue!

Praying regularly for specific women

Sadly, **Shirley's** mental health isn't great at the moment. But she's not suffered any serious set-backs as a result. Please would you pray that she engages with the support that's here for her? She can get knocked back so easily and this is a bit of a pattern for her.

It's hard for **Lucy** to make relationships and to be around other people. This stops her getting help with the issues she has. Because of her anxiety she just pops into drop-in for her script and leaves straight away. But she used to be on the van every single night! She's showing such an amazing change and we thank God for this. She's always asked for prayers and she needs them. Every step in her recovery is momentous so we ask that you pray for her strength and for her to begin to become open to those around her who are working with her.

"God is faithful... with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."

1 Corinthians 10:13

Thanks to each of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna." with a period at the end.

Anna Smith
Chief Executive Officer