

STILL HUMAN, STILL HERE

WINTER DESTITUTION APPEAL 2013

(Please display and circulate widely)

An urgent appeal for financial donations to give direct humanitarian relief and protection for destitute people seeking asylum in Glasgow

Over the next few weeks, Positive Action in Housing will be working to ensure that people who are at risk of destitution have access to basic survival essentials over the Christmas and Winter period.

Destitute asylum seekers are forbidden to seek work or access public funds or emergency homeless accommodation. Many have fallen into long term destitution and are part of Europe's invisible citizens.

In 2013, we provided food, shelter, clothing, bus passes and emergency payments to 268 people. We provided 530 nights of emergency shelter. We gave out emergency crisis payments of over £26,000. Two thirds of the destitute were "additionally vulnerable". These include young women, the elderly, families, pregnant women. Many service users are suffering mental or severe physical health problems, and/or some form of trauma, for example, torture, rape or sexual exploitation.

Everything we are offering is being donated by the people of Scotland, as well as social housing providers, voluntary organisations, trade unions, universities, schools, faith groups and many, many others. Read on to see how you can also contribute to this vital cause...

Winter Surgery | 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Wednesday 18 December 2013

The Winter Surgery aims to reach as many vulnerable refugees as possible in the run up to Xmas and New Year. This surgery is delivered in addition to our regular drop ins on Tuesdays and Fridays (11 am to 1 pm). Through our Emergency Hardship Fund we are able to give out crisis payments for food to those who are destitute or without financial support.

We are giving out crisis payments, food items, warm clothing for children and babies, hygiene packs, information packs, hot drinks, soup and bread. Caseworkers will be on hand to offer practical support options and keep in touch afterwards.

We welcome referrals of destitute refugees including those without financial or other means of support.

Referrals can come from advice workers, community groups, health workers, housing officers, GPs, and those involved in supporting people from refugee communities.

To make a referral for crisis payments, food, shelter or additional support, email full details and circumstances of destitute clients to home@paih.org by 12 Noon Monday 16 December 2013.

State clearly what help is required. Provide the following details about each person you wish to refer: *Full names, dates of birth, contact details, nos. in household, current links with referring organisation or group, additional vulnerabilities, exceptional circumstances and any risk or safety concerns we should be aware of*. We will then contact you or the service user and arrange an appointment on December 18th depending on the request.

Glasgow Destitution Network Night Shelter | 8 am to 8 pm

The Winter Night Shelter is run by the Glasgow Destitution Network, (of which Positive Action in Housing is a partner), and offers a night shelter. **For single destitute people who need to access the Night shelter please call the Casework Team on 0141 353 2220 or email home@paih.org**

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Give a Financial Donation

To give out emergency cash support over the winter period and beyond, we urgently need financial donations. Please note that ALL money donated to this appeal goes towards providing direct humanitarian relief to destitute refugees.

Give an online donation safely and securely at our Justgiving page: <http://www.justgiving.com/Winter-Destitution-Appeal> Remember, if you're a UK taxpayer, tick the box saying you want your donation to be "gift aided". Justgiving will then collect the Gift Aid, adding an extra 25% to your donation.

Send a cheque made payable to PAIH Ltd (*please mark the back of the cheque Winter Appeal*), and post to: *Positive Action in Housing Ltd, 98 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1PJ*

Give a cash donation at our office Just, email home@paih.org and we will arrange a suitable time for you to visit and have your donation recorded and receipted by two members of staff.

Set up a standing order and donate from as little as £5 per month using internet banking, or make a one off payment, Our secure account details are: Positive Action in Housing Ltd (SC027577)
Sort code 82-20-00 Account number 00447398

Volunteer

Anyone willing to volunteer or lend a hand on the day is asked to email home@paih.org.

We need volunteers to come forward to offer room in their homes for a few days or weeks, whatever suits you. If you can help, please email home@paih.org and we will contact you.

Donate Items

Sealed food items, *rice, pasta, sauces, pot noodle, tins of soup (non-meat), chocolate, dry foods like sugar, tea, coffee, biscuits, jam and spreads.*

Toiletries: *e.g. toothbrush/toothpaste, men's shaving products, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine hygiene products etc.*

Bus passes, Phone Cards, Sleeping bags

Washed and ironed winter clothing: jumpers, coats and boots for men, women and children (if possible, please mark clothes with ages and whether for boys/girls)

Please drop donations off on any working day (except Monday) between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm at Positive Action in Housing, 98 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1PJ between now and Monday 16 December. Any caterers who can provide homemade vegetable soup and fresh made bread/rolls to give out on the 18th should email home@paih.org.

If you would like to donate new toys for Christmas to boys and girls from refugee communities, please call Jock Morris, Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees on 07896 877 315, who will then arrange collection. (Due to lack of space, please do not bring these items to our offices).

For more information about this appeal, please [email home@paih.org](mailto:home@paih.org), or call 0141 353 7972.

Positive Action in Housing Ltd is a Scottish Registered Charity SC027577 Registered office: 98 West George Street Glasgow G2 1PJ We wish to acknowledge the kind support of charitable trusts and donations from members of the public.