



2014  
A YEAR IN REVIEW

# A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT YOU HELPED TO ACHIEVE LAST YEAR

## A HARVEST OF TRANSFORMED LIVES

We describe poverty as a web, which can be hard and difficult to escape from. Thank you for making a difference to so many lives across the country. Here are just a few accounts of people whose lives have been transformed by projects funded with your gifts.

### POVERTY OF RELATIONSHIPS:

When people lack strong and supportive relationships on which individual, family and community life are built.

### POVERTY OF RESOURCES:

When people lack sufficient resources, such as income, skills, qualifications or health to achieve a good standard of living.



### ROGER'S STORY

Roger had been a coach driver for 40 years, but got into trouble with the law about two years ago, since then he's been unemployed. A problem with his benefits meant that he was sanctioned and he went without money and food for four weeks, it was then the police found him and referred him to St Peter's.

*'After my conviction I basically lost all direction in life. I've tried to get a job without success, but it's tough being unemployed after 40 years of employment. I live in the hostel here now as my home has fallen into disrepair. I'm hoping to start volunteering soon. I can honestly say the people here are friends now.'*



### STEVIE'S STORY

Stevie dropped out of college, as he felt it wasn't for him, and just wanted to get into work. He worked until last year. Then he was fortunate enough to get into an internship which really inspired him, he's now looking for a fulltime position.

*'The market for jobs is not really open for everyone. The positions for young people are more and more just apprenticeships. It feels like there are not many opportunities for people growing up. But projects like this (SPEAR) can lead to people feeling like 'Oh I can do this! There is a place for me, there is a role for me. There are options for me.'*

### SIMI'S STORY



Simi had a stable and sheltered upbringing. Her husband died leaving her with three children under five. Simi was vulnerable at this time, with only a widow's pension to live on. She met a man who coerced her into a life of prostitution. He became her pimp and partner. After 18 years she miraculously got free from this life and now volunteers with the STEP project to help others.

*'A problem shared is a problem halved. We've all been in the same boat. I would be lost without this project and so would a lot of people. There are people here who you can talk to. We share, we help each other out, we cuddle each other, we cry on each other shoulders. And there are so many people who need that love, they need to be shown God's love to help them through their passage of life.'*

### IAN'S STORY



Ian had been brought up in the care system since he was about 11. This left him a damaged, lonely young man, hating everyone and trusting no one. After several spells in prison he tried to commit suicide when his young daughter died. During his last sentence the prison chaplain introduced him to Jesus Christ and helped him to learn to read and write.

*'The day before my release I had several options of where to go. Then I heard about WALK. I had really bad anxiety problems. They kept telling me they loved me. I would shut myself away in my room. But the lads just nurtured me. And didn't pressure me. They just showed me love. They've found me a job in a charity shop and are helping me with my anxiety.'*



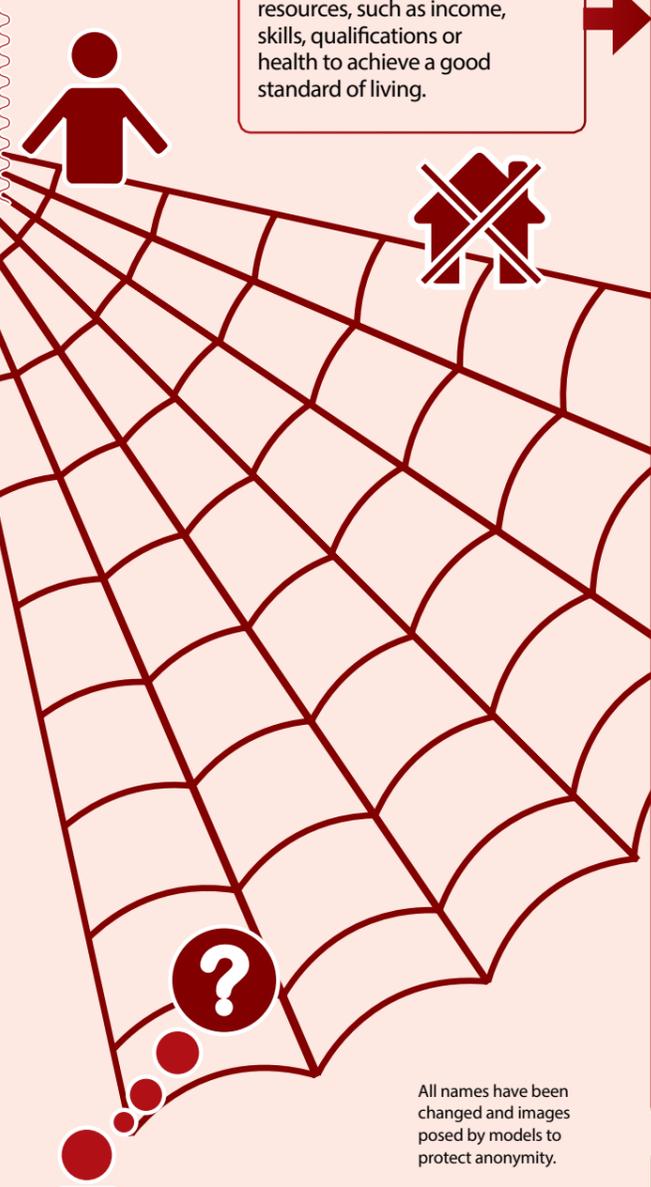
### MARCIA'S STORY

Marcia lives with her 2 year old daughter. She has an on/off relationship with her daughter's father and struggles with a lack of support and isolation, especially since giving up work to have her child. Her feeling of helplessness is made worse as the area has now become quite rough with kids doing drugs and frequent drugs raids.

*'It's been hard to find people to be around, it's not just for her it's for me as well. You need that stimulation, something to look forward to. It keeps me going, so finding this was really really good. I don't know what I'd be doing. It's hard I've found it mentally hard. It can't just be the two of you all the time, you do have to have a network of people that I can talk to and share my experiences with. And I've found that really good.'*

*'...coming here to this Church Urban Fund-supported centre, the Ace of Clubs. They care for people on the very edge. They enable people to find their way back into the mainstream of life when they want to.'*

The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year address, January 2014.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01pmh5x>



All names have been changed and images posed by models to protect anonymity.

### POVERTY OF IDENTITY:

When people lack a strong sense of self-worth and a belief in their own ability to respond to challenges. Where these are missing it can lead to low self-esteem, a lack of resilience and aspiration, poor mental health, and even drug and alcohol misuse.

### MARK'S STORY



Mark had a period in the 90s of getting in trouble with fighting. This saw spells in prison and his relationships break down. After a time in alcohol rehabilitation projects he found out about the Hope Project. He started volunteering and has risen to the role of caretaker.

*'I started to volunteer about a year ago. I enjoy coming here. If I didn't have this place, I wouldn't like to think where I'd be now. I love every single minute of being in here. I feel that I'm a benefit to the community. This place has made me who I am today.'*

### MICA'S STORY



Mica started to come to the group about four years ago after suffering abuse from her father. She enjoys the group and has continued to come as a result. She has started to run a jewellery making course and has seen her creative skills flourish.

*'For me this helps to get me out of the house, I get anxiety attacks because of my father living in the city now and not wanting to bump into him. It's nice to be able to come out and join a ladies group that you know are going through different things and can support each other.'*

### SUKIE'S STORY



Sukie had been in foster care since the age of 3 and had barely known her birth family. Growing up she never had a sense of belonging at school or with her foster parents. But when Sukie started volunteering at the Murston Community Bank all that changed.

*'Knowing that you're making a difference in someone's life makes you feel better. It gives you the drive to carry on, to keep going and to help other people. I never really had a family, but the church has become my family.'*

## IN 2014 THE TOGETHER NETWORK...

CONTINUED TO SUPPORT OVER 1,800 SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS ENGLAND | SUPPORTED OVER 220 NEW PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES |  
TOOK PART IN 400 EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS SHARING OUR WORK WITH ALMOST 8,000 PEOPLE | SUBMITTED OR HELPED TO SUPPORT 77 FUNDRAISING APPLICATIONS  
HELPING TO RAISE £345,000 TO FUND SOCIAL-ACTION WORK IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

SEE [WWW.CUF.ORG.UK/ABOUT-US](http://WWW.CUF.ORG.UK/ABOUT-US) TO VIEW THE COMPLETE ANNUAL REVIEW

THANK YOU