



THE BESOM

Sweep away suffering

The BESOM in Thurrock Annual Report 2015/16

The Besom in Thurrock helps people to make a difference.

It provides a bridge between those who want to give time, money, things or skills and those who are in need.

It ensures that what is given is used effectively.

The service it provides is free.

Churches involved

During this year a number of churches and groups have been involved in giving time, money and things. These are: the Gateway People's Centre, St. Margaret's, Thurrock Christian Fellowship, Chafford Hundred Community Church, Grays Baptist Church, 24-7 Prayer Stanford, Horndon-on-the-Hill Methodist Church and Stanford-le-Hope Mothers' Union.

We thank all of you who have partnered with us in the work of showing God's love practically to the needy in our Borough.

Agencies

We continue to enjoy good relationships with many local agencies. This year we have worked with: Family Mosaic, Open Doors, the Community Mental Health team at Grays Hall, T.R.U.S.T (Thurrock Racial Unity Support Task Group), Thurrock Council Social Care Departments, Tilbury Children's Centre, Charles Street (Family Mosaic Family and Single Support Hostel), Community Mums and Dads, Ruth House (Sanctuary Teenage Pregnant/Parent Support Hostel), Thameside Children's Centre, One Community Development Trust, Quarry Hill Academy, Catch 22, Grays Probation Service, Power Advocacy Service, Treetops School, Purfleet Academy, Aveley Children's Centre, SSAFA and Thurrock Council Local Area Co-Ordinators.

We really appreciate all that the agencies do for local people who need extra support. We are very glad to be able to support them in their work and thank them for entrusting us with their requests for help.

Van and Car Trips

This year the Besom van has carried out 64 successful deliveries and 52 collections from private homes. We have also made 17 collections of new furniture from retail parks and shops and made 2 attempted deliveries of items where the furniture either did not fit or the clients were out. There have also been 14 car deliveries, assessments or collections. The van trips have involved collecting good quality second hand furniture/white goods and delivering them to needy people in Thurrock in response to agency requests. In our cars we have delivered smaller items such as bedding and starter boxes. Starter boxes, which include kitchen and bathroom essentials, are much appreciated by those who have been given a room or a flat but who cannot afford to go out and buy everyday necessities such as toaster, cutlery, plates etc.

Deliveries over the past year have included:

- 22 beds (single & double)
- 7 wardrobes
- 3 tables & chairs
- 1 desk
- 1 lot of lounge furniture
- 7 sofas
- 13 chests of drawers
- 9 fridges/freezers
- 2 cookers
- 1 mattress
- 5 hampers
- 2 cots
- 1 fabric wardrobe
- 2 sets of bunk beds

- 1 bundle of toys
- 14 sets of bedding
- 10 starter packs

Time Givers

We have a great team of regular time givers from several different churches who support the work of the Besom each Tuesday, but there is always room for more! We enjoy a time of sharing and prayer from 9.30am each Tuesday when we bring the day and the people we will be visiting to God. Our van team are always on the look out for opportunities to share about Jesus as they deliver furniture and they have had some precious times of prayer over the past year. We look to God to water all these seeds which have been sown with care and love.

Projects

Our Core Team has now made a decision that Tuesday time givers will no longer take on any large decorating projects. There are two main reasons for this; one is that as a team we are not getting any younger, and several of those who did participate in the projects now find this kind of work too physically demanding. The second reason is that we find we have more than enough to do with all the van collections and deliveries which need to be made. Some churches have indicated that they would like to support us by providing teams for decorating or gardening, and we will happily facilitate these projects as and when we receive requests for this kind of help from the agencies.

Christmas Hampers

We sent out five large food hampers this Christmas as well as a number of smaller food gifts. We are extremely grateful to all those who collected food items for our hampers – these gifts made such a difference to the families who received them.

Chafford Hundred Ministry Day

We have again been asked to go along to the Chafford Hundred Church to participate in their Ministry Day on Sunday 18th September. We are looking

forward to sharing stories with the congregation and making them aware of what the Besom does. After last year we gained a new Time Giver and Core Team member so who knows what this year will bring.

Besom Live – Drop-In Day

On Tuesday 10th May 2016 we had a drop-in day at Besom in Chase Road to which agency staff, friends of Besom and Thurrock church leaders were invited, to hear news of how we are getting on, to find out more about the service we offer and to share coffee or lunch with us. This replaced our normal style Open Day, allowing visitors to see us in action on a normal Besom day.

Besom Regional Conference - Saturday 25th June 2016

By the time you receive this Annual Report our Regional Conference at Gateway Peoples' Centre, Stanford will have come and gone. We are looking forward to sharing stories with members of other Besoms in the south-east as well as listening to James Odgers, the founder of Besom.

Finance

Our financial situation remains very healthy. Regular gifts from Thurrock Christian Fellowship and St. Margaret's Church have enabled the Besom in Thurrock not only to keep a van on the road, but also gave the opportunity for many individuals in the community to receive new white goods and other furniture.

We express our thanks to these and other churches and individuals who have made gifts to us this year.

Thurrock Christian Fellowship continues to provide space for the Besom in Thurrock to operate (rent free). We have the use of a small warehouse, a storage room, a meeting room, office space equipped with a phone line, a computer, photocopier and stationery. For all these things we are most grateful.

Our bank balance as at the end of March was £1103.31. If you have any questions about our financial situation please feel free to ask us and we will be very happy to show you our accounts.

Contact Details

You can find our details on The Besom website www.besom.com under local Besoms - Besom in Thurrock, plus more about the wider network of Besoms around the country.

If you would like to contact us by 'phone our number is 01375 411806, but we only work on a Tuesday. You may, of course, leave a message on the answer phone. Our email is besominthurrock@gmail.com