



# YESU

THE PEOPLES PLACE



**YESU**  
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# REVIEW 2014



# ACHIEVEMENTS

Our staff and volunteers are committed to their community and have a passion for a greater cohesion, linking people together. Our activities are provided in numerous places throughout the community, we don't expect people to come to us, we will go to them, building positive relationships with them and other agencies supporting their efforts too. Each year we come into contact with many people with varying needs and this is a snapshot of what we have done during the year.

- Lithuanian single mum who has been struggling on her own with various issues including domestic violence, saying 'Thank you so much for being here for me, I feel so much better that I can come here'.
- Through out the year, with our support and encouragement, we've seen a single parent mum move from being in a desperate state with no income and no permanent address, to receiving the correct benefits, moving back into employment and into a secure home of her own.
- Supported a young Lithuanian couple who live in a caravan and are expecting their second child to access maternity benefits that they were unaware they were entitled to.
- Supported several other Lithuanian young mums with various issues surrounding children and schools, poor living conditions, landlords, tax credits, pay and working conditions. All situations have improved because they have had access to information and one-to-one support to follow up on their issues, helping them overcome language barriers, and difficulties in filling out forms.
- The café outreach has touched the lives of a large number of rural residents, some very needy, providing a listening ear and non-judgemental support.
- One of our most needy clients who struggles with physical and mental health issues, came in especially to express her thanks for the support she's received from YESU.
- Had a individual who came in to tell us she had successfully completed her basic reading and writing certificate with the support of one our befriender volunteers dedication to helping her learn to read.
- A lady who has come to the drop-in café regularly to talk through problems large and small, and expressed that having someone to talk to has helped tackle her depression.
- As well as providing a place to meet and enjoy a coffee, the drop in café in Sheringham has successfully signposted some of the most vulnerable local people to agencies who can help, including the local foodbank and housing agency.
- We try to make sure all visitors feel welcome and that everything we have to offer can be accessed with ease. It was great to receive positive feedback from a recent visitor who uses a wheelchair. They were so impressed with the facilities and warm welcome that he came back twice in one day, and remarked on how welcome he felt and how much he'd enjoyed the conversation as well as the coffee, and that coming into Yesu was a different experience to most places he visits when on holiday.
- It's rewarding to see hard working families access financial support that will make a challenging time more bearable.
- Organised a Bistro Night in which young people from our Emerge groups served.

- Continued to see growth in numbers and popularity, for our 8-11's club – over 20 children each week.
- Involved young people in the planning and organising of fundraising events for equipping and resourcing a family care home in South Africa. We raised over £2,000.
- Took a team to South Africa which included young people from our Emerge youth group to help with building work, painting and equipping a family care home.
- Seen young people participating in training; making the transition from Saturday Club member to Junior Leader, taking on various responsibilities.
- Going in weekly to local primary school, supporting the PE Teachers and putting on activities.
- Leading themed assemblies at the local infant, primary and high schools.
- Provided children activities in the Easter, summer and half-term holidays.
- Provided a regular drop-in support session at the local high school on issues such as beating exam stress, revision techniques and budgeting.
- Continued running a small after school club in a rural community.
- Befrienders Café has continued to be well attended as people with a mental health issue call in to receive support and encouragement.
- Signposted people to agencies specific to their needs.
- Provided a central and confidential venue for CAB to run drop-ins.
- Provided a confidential venue for other agencies to meet with clients.
- Worked alongside other agencies.
- Run trips for youth including a weekend away.
- Supported parents dealing with specific issues.
- Provided help with personnel development and given opportunities for volunteering and employment.
- Received positive feedback from teachers and young people in regards to assemblies.
- Supported an individual who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- Many low income families have been able to have short breaks in the YESU mobile home.
- Supported individuals who have struggled to find or achieve sustainable employment.
- Accompanied individuals to GP and hospital appointments.
- Provided transportation for hospital appointments and job centre attendance.
- Helped with house moves.
- Set up a maintenance team to help carry out much basic repairs in homes.
- Run clothes swap shops.
- Put on craft evenings.
- Advocated for individuals who felt vulnerable.
- Helped individuals access benefits and assisted with completing applications for jobs and grants.
- Worked alongside other churches to put on summer holiday club with 250 young people attending.
- Supported young man who has been off work long term with depression.
- Helped with budgeting advice.
- Provided small gifts for individuals in need.

## YESU SUPPORTS...

- Individuals who lack motivation and self worth.
- Individuals with mental health issues such as bipolar disorder, OCD, self harm and depression.
- Children, young people and adults with learning disabilities.
- Young people caring for their parents.
- Parents experiencing infant bereavement.
- Individuals and families facing financial crisis or dealing with debt.
- Victims of bullying.
- Individuals with poor physical health that affects their quality of life.
- Individuals and families dealing with substance misuse.
- Individuals facing relationship breakdown.
- Individuals and families with housing issues.
- Children and young people to achieve academically.
- Isolated and lonely individuals.
- Young people and adults to improve their employment opportunities.