Stirling Street Pastors

Caring, Listening and Helping

Newsletter - Winter '11

Dear friends, welcome to the 27th edition of our newsletter.

Making a difference – to date we have:

- Engaged with 6225 people
- Removed 1759 glass bottles
- Assisted 116 vulnerable individuals
- Rescued 368 pairs of sore feet with flip flops
- Had 598 'spiritual wellbeing' conversations

A Resounding End to 2011

The 'Blood' or 'Black' Friday weekend as it is known saw the conclusion of our Street Pastor teams in 2011. This year, the 16th and 17th of December represented the last opportunity for work night parties, late night opening of pubs and clubs or just a big booze up before everyone goes on holiday.

For the emergency services, this weekend represents one of the busiest nights of the year. Both extra Police patrols can be found to combat the increased violence as well as additional Ambulance vehicles to cope with over indulgence and fallout from fights.

For our volunteers, things were just as busy with 91 conversations over the two evenings, 3 vulnerable women assisted, 33 bottles removed and some 5 foil blankets dished out to those suffering from the cold temperatures. It was also a weekend for profound spiritual questions with Friday night's team having no less than 6 in depth spiritual conversations. The Saturday team delivered boxes of Christmas chocolates to door staff throughout the city for the second year running now and saw a late night finish of 5.30am concluding 65 nights of service in 2011.

£873 of New Equipment Provided

Since starting Stirling Street Pastors, many of our uniforms have seen dozens of nights of active service on the streets and their fair share of blood, sick and wear and tear as a result! During December, Stirling Community Safety Partnership contacted us offering assistance with uniform replacements for our volunteers. This coincided with the launch of a new range of uniform options and so all 19 of our volunteers are getting at least one new item of branded clothing for their patrols in 2012.

All things Prayerful

During 2011, the commitment of Stirling Street Pastors towards prayer for the city and its people was firmly reinforced. We are setting aside 4 of our monthly meetings this year to seek and inform dedicated prayer partners of the ongoing challenges to our work as well as the trends of night life in the city. If you wish to join us, our next prayer meeting will be held at Stirling Baptist church on the 27th February, 7.30pm. There will be tea, coffee, cake and an update on spiritual issues within the city centre followed by a time of prayer and discussion around the focus for 2011. If you are interested in praying for our city centre and its inhabitants then please join us or contact the office for more information.

Word on the Streets

17/12/11: "We met *two young women in Murray Square at 4.45am looking for somewhere to buy food. Laura [name changed] was planning to walk home to Plean as she had not got enough money for a taxi. We suggested this would be very dangerous given the time of night and year and asked if they had any alternative options. We walked them to a friend's house where Laura said she could stay. At 5.10am when we were packing up for the night back at base she called our Street Phone and was distressed, saying she had been kicked out of the house by her friend's mum and left on her own in high heels with no jacket. We got our uniforms back on and went into the city, ordered her a taxi using our emergency agreement with a local company and saw her home safely.*"

Laura was one of 12 vulnerable people we helped between October and December 2011.

On behalf of our volunteers, committee and all those we impact on our streets - Thank You

Contact us: 07545527511, stirling@streetpastors.org.uk

Stirling Street Pastors is a registered Scottish charity, Ref: SC042163