

Care Van News

Issue 21 - Autumn 2015

The Care Van is jointly managed by Bethany Christian Trust and Edinburgh City Mission

Care Van birthday ceilidh

In July we held a very successful ceilidh to celebrate the 25th birthday of the Care Van. We heard from Alan Berry about how it all began and we celebrated with cake and dancing. Thanks to all who came along and helped make it a great evening!



Care Van & Care Shelter video

We have a great video of the Care Van and Care Shelter which is available to be viewed online:

www.vimeo.com/140182179

It was made last winter by the Munn Brothers, friends of mine from the States, who were so taken by the Care Van and Shelter on one visit to Scotland that they made a return trip to make this film for us for free!

Do look it up, it's just over 5 minutes long but really captures the essence of these two projects.

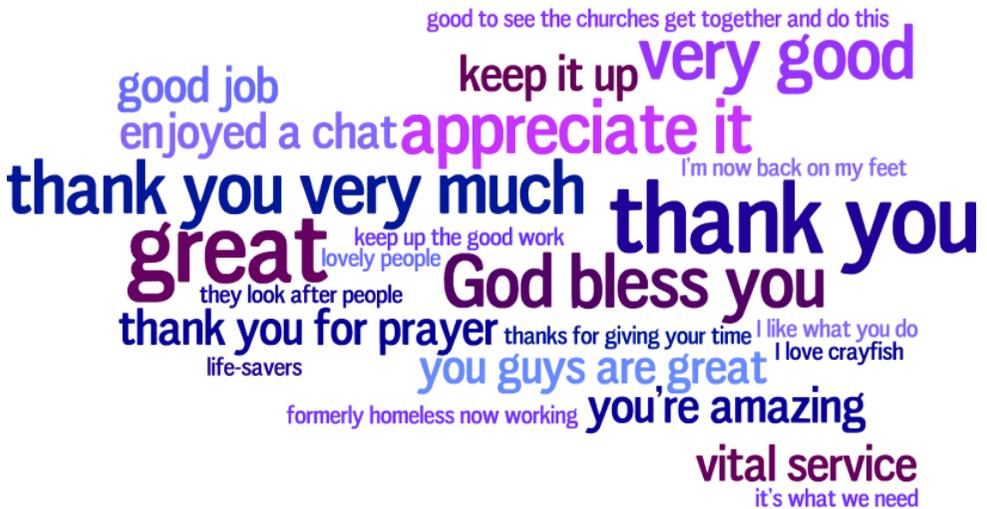
Numbers using the Care Van

We've seen unusually high numbers of people accessing the Care Van, particularly in the evening, over the past few months and so would recommend that teams bring extra food supplies. The average numbers recently have been 52 (evening). It is sad to see so many people in need on our city's streets. Thank you for all you do to show God's love to those who are without.

Cameron Black, Care Van Manager

Feedback

Ruth Longmuir, Project Coordinator



Every time you volunteer on the Care Van you complete a report form and we ask you to include any positive comments you hear. These are very encouraging to read, so we want to share some with you here. All the phrases above come from the report forms.

Sometimes people come to the van having used it in the past and thank the volunteers on board for the service they provide:

Previous van user came to thank us for doing a good job and giving up our time. He really appreciated the work and is now back on his feet.

We hear of people who have made great steps forward in their life and

this may all have started from a visit to the Care Van:

Chap, now living in Leicester and drug-free, came to the van in the Grassmarket. He wanted to thank all involved in the Care Van service for the help given to him over the years when he needed it.

There are often things to be celebrated:

One person attended an Alpha course due to help he has received. Came to belief in Christ. Says that we should keep up the good work.

Be encouraged by these comments and continue to do the amazing work you do!

Bellevue Chapel — A Volunteer's Story

Peter Cloke

Bellevue Chapel continues to partner with Bethany Christian Trust and Edinburgh City Mission to deliver the Care Van once a month.

While we go out on the same day each month and follow the same route as every other team, night on night, that does not mean the team members get a smooth, predictable, easy to manage night. Every night brings its own unique and wonderful challenges.

Every night is different, with different men and women bringing their individual needs to the van. These men and women are met by five volunteers, who seek to meet their most basic human needs (hot food, dry clothes and the briefest social contact). Above all, with the danger of becoming complacent or clichéd, we seek to bring Christ out to them in their place of need.

A recent Bellevue team met a distressed woman in the

Grassmarket. Overriding the schedule they stayed late with her (not ideal, I know). However, when they were able to move on, they did not get far before technology (in the form of a blocked fuel filter) let them down and the van came a halt on George IV Bridge.

The team reflected that the time they spent ministering and in fellowship with this individual surpassed all their physical challenges. Although they got home around 1am, they reflected humility in having the opportunity to work with the many who had no home to return to that night.

Working on the Care Van has its routines and one or two usual faces among the many who are in a moment of extreme physical need. However our team is glad to partner with Bethany and ECM and all the other churches to bring Christ out to those He loves. At least he remains the same.

The next inductions for all new Care Van volunteers will be on:

Evening volunteers: Tuesday 24 November, 7.30pm

Lunchtime volunteers: Tuesday 1 December, 7.30pm

Both sessions will last about an hour and be held in
South Leith Baptist Church, Casselbank Street EH6 5HA

Union of Genius are Souper! Ruth Longmuir, Project Coordinator



Union of Genius, the soup café that provides us with soup for the Care Van, recently had another Kickstarter project to raise funds to expand their commercial kitchen. Having only established the kitchen two years ago, they have outgrown it already!

They kindly included in the fundraising incentives a promise to donate even more soup to the Care Van. They reached their fundraising target and so now donate 150 litres or 15 nights worth of soup to the Care Van each month, free of charge - two nights more than before. Bethany purchase soup for the remaining nights that teams have requested soup for at a very reasonable, discounted rate.

Each team that wants Union of Genius soup pays £12 per night which takes into account the free nights, plus the nights that Bethany pay for. Any extra goes to pay for cups etc for the van. A massive thank you to Union of Genius for their very generous provision of soup and we wish them all the best as they expand their business.

A Reminder for Evening Care Van Volunteers

The first stop for the **evening Van** has returned to **Waverley Bridge**
(The first stop for the Lunchtime Van remains at Market Street)

Contact Details

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