

ACH Visits Bristol Refugee Fundraisers

Over the last month ACH has been lucky to attend a number of charity events fundraising for the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis in and around Bristol. Refugees stranded in areas such as Calais and most recently Slovenia have been in desperate need of everyday essentials including toiletries and warm clothing. Local residents across Bristol have been coming together in order to establish fundraising events which are rapidly responding to the needs of these refugees who have become displaced across Europe.

In central Bristol a collective of individuals have joined forces to create the **Calais Refugee Solidarity Bristol** group which recently ran a pop up shop to raise money for essential supplies and priority items for refugees affected by the crisis in Europe. The shop popped up at the 123 Space in Stokes Croft and ran from Thursday 22nd October to Saturday 24th October. Items available for purchase included vintage clothing, accessories, shoes and even books. The majority of items were sourced from excess donations to refugees in Calais which could not be sent over or donations which were impractical for use, such as high heels. The pop up shop raised a grand total of over £1000 and donated any items not sold to local Bristol homeless people and relating homeless charities.

Slightly further afield in Bradley Stoke, local makeup artist Tracy Deb ran a 'Paint a Smile for Syria' makeup marathon, producing a series of mini makeovers from 10am-8pm. Local residents were encouraged to come along to the event where they could purchase tea, coffee and an endless supply of cakes. The event was also supported by a raffle which featured a host of generous donations including a family ticket to the Winter Wonderland at The Mall Cribbs Causeway and a bespoke floral bouquet. All of the money raised from the event went to the **British Red Cross** to support refugees affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria.

It has been great to see a variety of local residents in Bristol taking an initiative in a time of trouble and working together to make a difference. Attending these events has also been a brilliant opportunity for ACH to inform others about **our work** re-housing, supporting and training refugees in the UK. Building and developing these connections further cements the **community spirit** we are committed to promoting throughout our organisation.

If you are interested in supporting local refugees, then we have a range of volunteer opportunities available with our organisation:

www.ashleyhousing.com/careers/volunteer-opportunities/