



# Housing Young People. Changing Lives.

Preventing disadvantaged children and young people being homeless.  
Providing them with life's building blocks and resources, enabling them to become  
happy, confident and successful adults

## YPACF NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Welcome to YPACF's first newsletter of 2020. It's been a busy 2019 with lots happening with the Charity this year.

Over the past 12 months we have provided a home and support to 11 young people between the ages of 16 – 25. We are currently supporting 6 young people.

### Our Houses

This year we have been busy upgrading our houses to make them safer and more comfortable. This has included updating fire safety measures, starting internal renovations and decorating and adding soft furnishings to the new lounge at Rebecca House, where the residents can relax during their leisure time. We aim to have this work completed early in the New Year.



### Fun Times

During the summer and autumn of 2019 our young people together with support staff had two weekends away. A camping trip in the Savernake Forest and a barge weekend on the Kennet and Avon Canal, with the help of the Bruce Trust. **“This trip made us feel like one large group, where we could relax and have fun”**. The young people and staff learned a number of practical skills; putting up a tent, outdoor cooking, how to navigate and open locks on a barge. A great confidence builder, the young people also had plenty of time to relax being close to greenery and wildlife. **“It is hard to put into words how I felt after the trip, but I do feel much better for the experience and want to do it all over again”**.



### May Day Mayhem

Thanks to the East Woodhay Society for inviting us to partake in the Annual Crafty Craft Race on the 1<sup>st</sup> May Bank Holiday. We want to provide similar opportunities in 2020 and will be planning these with the young people throughout the year.

### Our supporters and volunteers

Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers who provided practical and financial support this year. Your help and commitment to the charity and the support for the young people is invaluable. Thank you from us all!

### Our Trustees/CEO

This year we have welcomed 5 new trustees to our charity who have both the expertise and the commitment to further the work of the charity. We said goodbye to 3 of our trustees and we thank them for their time and commitment to the charity. We currently have 7 Trustees, including a new Chair of Trustees, Tim Dyson who took on this essential role in August 2019. We also say thank you and goodbye to our CEO, Rachel Morgan for her excellent support and leadership over the past year.

## Christmas 2019

Our young people received some wonderful Christmas presents, thoughtfully chosen for each person. They were delighted to receive these. They also enjoyed a "day out" on the 20<sup>th</sup> December in Oxford, where they played Crazy Golf, went Christmas Shopping and had lunch. A great day was had by all. Our thanks to the following for their generosity:

- Pangbourne Parents Association
- CDK (Hungerford)
- Friends from BNI
- AWE
- KPMG
- Sarah Donegan

## Charity of the Year

We thank the following organisations for choosing us as their Charity of the Year 2019. We are grateful for their continued support and interest in our work this year.

- KPMG
- Foundation IT
- Thatcham Mayor
- East Woodhay Society
- Hungerford Theatre Company

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## Our plans for 2020

2020 will be an exciting year for the charity. We have a new CEO, Tracy Underwood, who started with us on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. Tracy brings over 10 years' management experience in both the Charity and Healthcare sectors with positions in both the National Autistic Society and Sue Ryder.

Some new initiatives and developments for the year ahead include:

- additional therapeutic support for our young people
- securing a third house
- development of an "outreach" service, which will provide tailored support for ex-residents of the charity as they move on to more independent living
- redecoration of both houses. We will work with the young people on the plans for this.

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## We need your help

We need the following volunteers to help us with our ambitious plans in 2020.

- Business Owners. Can you help support/provide work opportunities for our young people?
- Additional trustees to help support our work
- Fundraising and Events Volunteers to support events planned throughout the year
- Administration volunteers to assist in the office

**There are a number of ways you can donate to help us with our work:**



Donating via The Good Exchange means your donation may be doubled and goes to a specific project we're currently running.

[www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk](http://www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk)

[Virgin Money Giving](#) See our website for the link

[Amazon Wishlist](#) If you'd prefer to donate goods to us you can use our Amazon Wishlist to see the items we're most in need of for our Young People. See our website for the link.

Donate supplies from our



## Social media

See our recently refreshed website: <https://www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk/>

Find us on Facebook: @YPACF