



THE **VINEYARD**
CARE CENTRE
Winter 2021

DIGNITY | HOPE | RESTORATION

THE VINEYARD CARE CENTRE

"Working for dignity, hope and restoration for everyone."

Thank You

2021 was a year of mixed emotions. We were delighted to welcome a sense of 'normality' back after 2020, complete joy at seeing guests face-to-face again, but have faced different challenges as we seek to reopen and maintain the Care Centre's operation.

One of the main challenges we've faced has been learning to respond to last minute changes in team availability. Yet despite this, we forged ahead and achieved some great things in 2021!

Like launching our new comprehensive BRIDGE programme, which involved developing a quality mentor recruitment and training scheme (more on that later.)

We continued to run our established ministries KIT, REFUEL, FAMILY SUPPORT, FEED and host drop-in clinics each week. These have been needed like never before, so we're very grateful that your support has allowed us to sustain these vital ministries.

None of what we do would be possible without the support of our loyal donors and volunteers. All your donations work together to change lives. Thank you for your continued help, gifts and donations throughout 2021 and into 2022.

Heather Ryan, Care Centre Manager

CARECENTRE@THEVINEYARDCHURCH.CO.UK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VINEYARDCARECENTRE

BRIDGE UPDATE

WWW.THEVINEYARDCHURCH.CO.UK/BRIDGE



Motivated by the gap in service provision between food bank dependency and self-sufficiency, we launched a ground-breaking programme, BRIDGE, last spring.

BRIDGE uses a mentorship pathway to help regular food bank users take the 'next step' to becoming food secure. The membership scheme offers one-to-one help and support so that members gain more autonomy and control over their lives.

Launching BRIDGE was a huge undertaking, especially given months of preparation were undertaken in a national lockdown! But with your support, we were able to successfully launch the new ministry last spring.



BRIDGE launched with 17 members in its first week, which quickly soared to 32 after 8 weeks due to the strong demand. We're delighted to announce that 8 members graduated the scheme last year: 6 to full-time employment and 2 to part-time employment.

Through our highly skilled and professionally trained volunteers, and partnership with local organisations (such as the Job Centre Plus, STANTA and CAP), we can offer BRIDGE members career counselling, disability employment advice, financial advice and more.



In addition to this, we've partnered with organisations such as Morgan Sindall, Mind in Mid-Herts, Oaklands College and Computer Friendly, to offer over 600 courses.

This means BRIDGE members have a wide variety of support, help and courses to choose from. This is exactly what the BRIDGE membership scheme was designed for: to support individuals in their specific situation to achieve specific goals.

Your support means we've had the privilege to help strengthen individuals to move forward in their lives; this has made huge positive impacts on their mental health, and therefore their children and families. We've seen first-hand how people have grown in hope and confidence, whereas previously they may have felt trapped and helpless. The wide range of BRIDGE's support and mentorship means graduates are now better equipped to approach the challenges they face.



'KENSA' JOINED **BRIDGE** LAST SPRING WHEN THE PROGRAMME WAS FIRST LAUNCHED.



What did you hope to achieve from joining BRIDGE?

To build my confidence and self-esteem, and grow in courage to challenge myself in positive ways. I wanted support so that I was not so alone in dealing with the difficulties that arise in my life.

Where are you on this journey?

I have started to build a trusting relationship with my mentor, which has led me to start asking for help - something I have great difficulty with. This is helping me to explore and identify those areas I need the most support in.

What impact is BRIDGE making to your everyday life?

Before I started, my life was below ground zero. But I now feel heard, seen and listened to, and am growing in confidence as a result. I feel in more control of life. Now that I have someone alongside me to talk through my issues with, I am growing in hope and believe that change is possible.

Have your friends and family seen a difference in you?

Since joining BRIDGE, friends have said I am happier and more confident, doing more to help myself.

How close do you feel to managing your life independently?

Aspects are definitely changing; I'm becoming more aware of what I need. But I don't feel like I could manage things by myself yet - I still need some support to get there. Thank you Vineyard.

Has BRIDGE allowed you to reflect on your spirituality?

Yes. I feel blessed with all the help and support I receive at Vineyard. It has helped me to see more evidence of God's work in me and others.



'YASMIN' MENTORED THREE **BRIDGE** MEMBERS LAST YEAR WHEN THE PROGRAMME WAS FIRST LAUNCHED.

I would describe the experience of mentoring as....

Just as much a journey for me as for any of my mentees. Being able to build connections with my mentees and help support them, in any small way, has been extremely humbling and heart-warming.

I believe the mentees have been enriched from the **BRIDGE programme...**

Each mentee has commented on the love, friendship, welcoming environment and support they've been provided with. A significant part of that has been because someone's taken time to listen to them and care enough to be there for them.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a mentor...

For me, it's been witnessing the visible and profound transformation of one of my mentees in her confidence, her focus, her state of mind, her health and most wonderfully her faith. Even if I had nothing to do with it, just being on this journey with her has been significantly rewarding for me.

The most challenging aspect so far...

Has been the feeling of helplessness. It's been a lesson for me to look to God to complete the work and accept that I am limited in my ability to find the right solution to 'fix' everything.

The only thing I would change about the programme is...

That we had more mentors! As there is a waiting list of people wanting to join this brilliant programme.

Christmas 2021

Christmas 2021 once again looked different this year! Thanks to the persistence of many volunteers and gifts of generous donors, we were able to continue to make Christmas a special and blessed time for many families and individuals who would have otherwise struggled or found themselves alone.



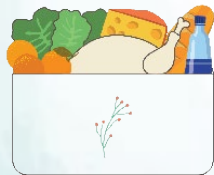
Over **300**
Advent Calendars



173 Christmas
Goodie Bags



40 Christmas Meals
served on Christmas Day



31 Festive Fresh Food
Parcels given out on
Christmas Eve

Christmas Toy Shop



475 Main Gifts



645 Stocking Fillers



300 Selection Boxes

IN 2021 WE GAVE...



33,798 items through
emergency food bank
FEED



13,468 ambient (non-
perishable) items give
out through BRIDGE



146 toiletry packs



1,407 Family Bags



1,538 Individual/Couple
Bags

A total of 2,538 items given out through KIT (between June-December)



18 adult clothes



1,496 children's clothes



562 baby clothes



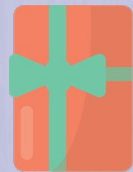
83 baby equipment



276 school uniform



81 shoes



22 gifts



691 lunch packs to support families in need over lockdown



1,122 REFUEL meals given out

GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO FIND MORE STATISTICS
WWW.THEVINEYARDCHURCH.CO.UK/CARECENTRE-INVOLVE

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT



ROTARY CLUB VERULAMIUM

We'd like to give a special shout-out to the Rotary Club of Verulamium for their incredible support in 2021! As well as giving a generous monthly donation, several of the Rotary members began volunteering weekly with us, providing a huge help with manning our collections and extra Christmas support. Thank you to Verulamium Rotary members who really went above and beyond in 2021!

THE VINEYARD CARE CENTRE

The Care Centre exists to equip people with the tools and support they need to move towards living a more independent life, empowering them to fulfil their God given potential. Our focus is to fill the gaps in existing service provision and support, rather than duplicate what already exists.

WWW.THEVINEYARDCHURCH.CO.UK
01727 812765 | CARECENTRE@THEVINEYARDCHURCH.CO.UK
7 BRICK KNOLL PARK | ST ALBANS | AL1 5UG
Charity No 1066846