

Donate to St James while you shop

The Society of St James is now partnering with Gift To Charity, an innovative new website which raises money for yourself and your chosen charity as you shop!

Simply register your debit or credit card at www.gifttocharity.co.uk, and every purchase you make with participating retailers, either online or in store, will generate cash back. You will get 50% of this cash back, and the remaining 50% will be donated to us to help us develop our services and continue supporting homeless and vulnerable people in our local community.

When you register, you will get £2.50 and a £2 bonus will go to the Society. Then just shop as usual at Gift To Charity's participating retailers, which include Asda, M&S, Superdrug, Halfords, Next and Currys, and support the Society of St James without it costing you a penny!

Gift To Charity has a multi-tier encrypted security system to maintain the security of your personal data. This means that using Gift To Charity is just as safe as doing your banking online, so you can shop and support St James at the same time without any security worries.

Fabrizio walks The Way of Saint James

This month, Fabrizio Beati sets off on a 780km sponsored walk along The Way of St James, an ancient pilgrimage route in northern Spain. He'll be donating all money raised through this amazing effort to the Society of St James. If you'd like to support Fabrizio, visit www.ssj.org.uk.



Fabrizio prepares for his amazing challenge



Opening Doors

The Newsletter of the Society of St James

Summer 2010

New Contracts for St James

We are very pleased to announce that the Society of St James has won 4 out of the 5 contracts which we tendered for in the last few months. This means that we will be supporting more vulnerable adults in Southampton than ever before. The contracts that we have been awarded are:

Substance Misuse Support Service (SMSS)- St James will continue to manage Southampton's SMSS service. Our SMSS workers meet people in their own homes or at a local café if they prefer, to offer them support with their addiction issues. The team will be expanding under this new contract, and will be able to support an average of 70 people at any one time.

Chronic Heavy Drinkers - We will also continue to manage our three houses for homeless people with histories of long-term, chronic alcohol abuse. We will carry on supporting the 19 residents at these houses through managed drinking, improved nutrition and access to health care services. This will improve their long-term health prospects and quality of life.

Long Term Mental Health - St James will be providing long-term housing with low levels of support to 52 people with mental health problems.

Short Term Mental Health (North Southampton) - We will also provide short-term accommodation and support to 43 people with mental health problems, helping them to take the next step towards independent living.

There were two Short Term Mental Health contracts available, one in the north of the city and one in the south. The Society achieved the highest scores for both contracts, but could only be awarded one. The north contract includes our current projects at Howard Road, Stafford Road and Daphne House, and will almost double the number of people with mental health problems that we can offer short-term support to.

These new mental health contracts mean that the Society will now be responsible for approximately 2/3 of Southampton's mental health supported housing. This gives us a great opportunity to shape the future of the support which is offered to people with mental health issues in our city.



Can you donate to St James?

Your support will transform the lives of homeless and vulnerable people in Southampton.

£5 could pay for a set of toiletries for someone who is moving into one of our houses or hostels

£15 could pay for a resident at Avondale, our care home, to go on a day trip to the New Forest

£30 could pay for a bed for the night at one of our hostels

£50 could pay for a pair of boots, a hi-vis waistcoat and a hard hat for someone on a work placement at the Jamie's Computers warehouse.

Donate online at www.ssj.org.uk, or fill out this form and send it back to us at the address below.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone..... Email.....

I would like to donate £.....
Please make all cheques payable to The Society of St James

Yes / No Please reclaim the tax on all my donations to The Society of St James. I am a UK tax payer and pay tax equal to or greater than the tax deducted from my donation.

Signature..... Date.....



Our SMSS team will be expanding

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Saints Foundation Partnership

Fantastic news! Southampton FC has chosen us to be their local charity partner for the next two years. We will be working with the newly launched Saints Foundation to raise awareness and funds for St James amongst Saints fans and the local community. This is a real honour for us, and we look forward to developing this partnership over the coming months.

We will be holding bucket collections at Saints games, raffling off signed merchandise, and will even have a Saints player attending one of our events each season. Keep an eye on our website, www.ssj.org.uk, for the latest developments.

Jamie's Computers @ The Mall Marlands

Earlier this year, Jamie's Computers, our IT refurbishment and training division, won a competition for the free use of a carousel at The Mall Marlands for a fortnight. You may have seen some of the team from Jamie's at the Marlands in March.

We are thrilled to let you know that we had a very successful fortnight, taking £10,500 in total. In addition, we brought Jamie's to the attention of many more people in the city.

We still have laptops for sale at our warehouse, and are also looking for donations of IT equipment which is no longer in use—contact us at the phone number and address at the bottom of the page.



The Jamie's carousel at the Marlands

IT Amnesty at Jamie's—17th July

Do you have any IT equipment around the house or at work which you no longer use? Are you looking for an easy way to dispose of it?

On Saturday 17th July we are holding an IT amnesty at Jamie's Computers. Just bring your unwanted IT to our warehouse any time between 10 and 4, and our staff will be waiting to take it off your hands for free! (Our address is at the bottom of the page.)

All hard-drives received are wiped using Blancco software, which guarantees the unrecoverable removal of 100% of data. Our staff and volunteers then refurbish the equipment, some of which is sold through our sales office and some of which is distributed to educational projects and not-for-profit organisations in the developing world by Computer Aid International.



New Life Skills worker at Bellevue

The Henry Smith Charity has agreed to fund the salary of a specialist Life Skills Worker at our Bellevue homelessness service for the next three years. This is wonderful news for our residents. We expect that the worker will support 240 people over the next three years, helping them to develop the skills they need to live independently.

Well done Home Support!

Our Home Support team visit people in their own homes and offer them the support they need to live independently. Their clients include people with substance misuse problems, mental health problems, and histories of homelessness. Often the team work with people who have challenging and difficult behaviour, which means that other agencies will not visit them.

The service is inspected on a yearly basis by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). On the 10th May the team received an unannounced visit from the CQC, and they received a glowing draft report on the 7th June.

The service was given a 3 star (excellent) rating. The inspector observed that "the level of support that each person receives is based on their individual assessed needs. People's rights are respected and their privacy and dignity is maintained."

Under the heading "What they could do better", the inspector wrote that "there were no requirements or concerns as a result of this inspection."

The client group has grown considerably over the past year, and the team has put in a lot of hard work to help the service to grow. So we would like to say a big thank you and well done to all of the Home Support team!



The Home Support team help vulnerable people to carry on living independently

A Home Support Success Story

William had very complex needs which meant that he was unable to go out by himself. He had little social contact with anyone and felt lonely and isolated.

The Home Support team have encouraged William to take trips out with them, which have been a real boost to his confidence. Doing his shopping, which used to be a real challenge for William, is now something he particularly enjoys, and he often stops off at a café for a cup of coffee and a chat with his support worker on the way home.

Could you help to shape St James' future?

Would you be interested in joining the Board of Trustees at St James? We are looking for someone with knowledge of planning law and practice, extensive IT knowledge, or substance misuse experience.

Our board members are responsible for agreeing the strategic direction of the organisation, and for ensuring that our targets are met and objectives achieved.

Board meetings are held every two months during normal working hours. In addition to these meetings, our board members usually sit on one of the sub-committees, which cover areas such as finance, development and personnel.

Our board members have a real impact on the lives of homeless and vulnerable people in Hampshire. If you'd be interested in finding out more about joining the board, please email Barbara at barbara.carstens@ssj.org.uk to get an introductory pack.



CRASH support our Rose Road project

Last year we contacted CRASH, the construction and property industries' charity for the homeless, to see if they could help us carry out some essential improvements to our house for chronic heavy drinkers on Rose Road. They were happy to help, and gave us £20,714 towards the project.

Amongst the work carried out was the replacement of the old, draughty conservatory with a new, warm one where the residents can enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. Thank you to all at CRASH for your support!



Enjoying a cup of tea in the new conservatory