

SANCTUARY LONDON

Finding Home
Newsletter
Winter 2016

...We are becoming a healthy, welcoming community where people who are poor or excluded are particularly valued. This community is an expression of the Good News embodied in Jesus Christ.



CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF FINDING HOME. TOGETHER.

On Monday, January 3rd, 2011, starting at 11am, Sanctuary London held her first official drop-in. Gil, Darryl, Sarah, and our friend Mike, met in the basement of our temporary location on Blackfriars Street. We ate fruit, yogurt, and homemade ham sandwiches.

The reality is that the idea of a place called Sanctuary was born long before that first drop-in. Together, Gil and Darryl worked for a ministry called Streetlight, a division of YFC. There they reached out to the young people living on or near the streets of London, primarily through two weekly drop-ins on an old renovated coach bus. Gil started in February of 2007, and Darryl joined a few months later in September.

On a typical Tuesday or Thursday night, we would close each drop-in with a short time for devotions and prayer with the volunteers. On a particularly cold evening, a friend

asked if he could stay and join us. "Doesn't it make more sense to pray *with us*, rather than just *for us*?"

He made a great point. And from that day on, we always invited our friends to join us for prayer time. And it also got Gil and Darryl dreaming about one day opening a Church that would particularly welcome people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to feel comfortable within the walls of a more traditional Church.



Fast forward to today. Sanctuary now hosts a worship service with 40-60 people, a lunch drop-in with 70-100 people, a family-style meal drop-in with 100-150 people and a music and an art drop-in with about a dozen

people each. These numbers obviously don't capture much of who we are as a community, but any amount of words wouldn't. If you have not been, please consider visiting us to experience it for yourself.

There have been many amazing Kingdom moments, and many others that have ripped our hearts out. There are times of joy and times of great sadness and pain. And we see all of these moments as times when we have experienced the loving prod of our Creator as he gently draws us closer into His warm embrace.

We know that none of this would have been possible without your love and support. Thank you for praying for us and walking with us on this journey.

Please join us in thanking God for holding onto us through all this time, and pray that we will continue to follow him for many years to come!

STILL FINDING NEW WAYS TO CREATE HOME

You may have already heard that Sanctuary has acquired the use of two semi-detached houses. This is all thanks to a very generous donation from some amazing friends...

Renovations have officially started just this past week as we add a second bathroom and a fourth bedroom to each of the units. We seriously cannot wait to move in eight of our friends from the Sanctuary community.

The house will not be set-up in a typical 'room-for-rent' situation. The individuals who move in will be committing to living together in a family-style environment. They will share meals, fridge space and

household chores together. It is not temporary or halfway housing. Our hope and prayer is that this place will become a place to call home for our friends. Real home; a place to feel safe, accepted, needed, wanted and, above all, loved. A place to hang your hat, and take off your mask.

100 @ \$100

Sanctuary is still dreaming, and we have all sorts of new ideas for how we would like to grow...

But new ideas and new programs cost money and require new staffing. While God has certainly blessed us by providing for our needs in 2015, we are still scrambling at the end of each month to pay our bills. In November we did the math and figured out that we need 100 new donors who would pledge \$100/

month or the equivalent in order to pay all of our monthly bills.

Since then we have had a dozen new people sign up, leaving us with almost 80 more people required to fulfil our goal to reach **100 @ \$100**. If we can reach this goal, all of our monthly bills will be paid, and any money that we can raise outside of this will be able to help us with our staffing needs and in expanding our programs.

If you already donate regularly, thank you so much for being a part of our team! If not, would you consider signing up to help us reach this goal? Maybe \$100 a month is too much, perhaps you have a friend or a group of friends who you can sign up with to total \$100. Every amount helps, but monthly pledges are always best, especially as we budget for new programs. As always, thanks so much for your prayers!



SANCTUARY LONDON
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Renovations have begun at the new Sanctuary House