

Providence Row Annual Review 2000-2001

Providence Row Charity

Providence Row Housing Association Sisters of Mercy

From His Grace The Duke of Norfolk KG GCVO CB CBE MC

For over 140 years Providence Row has worked with the Sisters of Mercy to ensure that the most needy are given refuge, warmth, and shelter.

Your help over the past year has been wonderful, and we gratefully acknowledge our debt of gratitude to those who have assisted us.

We continue to depend on your support, without which we would be unable to help the most disadvantaged in our society.

Patron, Providence Row

(Draft 2) Joint Statement - Providence Row Charity - Annual Review

A year of change, challenge and achievement.

The past year has been a significant one for the Providence Row partnership. It has also been a difficult one.

The death of our Honorary President, Anthony Bartlett, on the 25 October 2000 deprived the poor and homeless of London of one of their most compassionate champions. Anthony's wisdom, expertise and determination will be missed by all of us.

During the last year the Housing Association has struggled, like so many small but developing specialist housing associations, with an increasingly complex funding regime and the sometimes competing demands of regulators and stakeholders. Despite a deficit last year it is in good heart and is developing a number of innovative and exciting projects that will come into operation over the next two years.

Against this backdrop the Charity has recruited its first full-time director following Cheryl St Clair's many years of outstanding service to both organisations. Steven Lee-Foster has already made good progress and 2000 ended with the merger of the Charity with the counselling and advice service of Just Ask. The combined strength of both organisations now means that we are in a wonderful position to develop much needed support services for homeless people both in the East End and across London.

The highlight of the year was in December, when Her Majesty The Queen opened the Drapers' City Foyer at Weavers' Field in Bethnal Green which provides housing and training for vulnerable young people. Almost two hundred of our friends and supporters were able to join us at the reception, and it was a fitting occasion to mark the opening of this exciting project.

Of greatest long-term importance, however, has been the beneficial sale of the Charity's properties at Crispin Street, London E1. More than anything this marks the beginning of a new era of opportunity. We now have the exciting task of ensuring that the services and accommodation lost due to the sale are restructured and extended elsewhere in the City and East End of London. Your continued support in this endeavour is as important as ever, and we extend our thanks to all our supporters who have helped us provide an answer to the poor and homeless of the East End when they ask the question, "Where is the evidence of God's Providence?".

Simon Bartley,
Chairman, Providence Row Charity

Gordon Holloway,
Chairman, Providence Row Housing Association

Sister Evelyn Gallagher, RSM
Congregational Leader of the Union of the Sisters of Mercy

What a year! By anyone's measure the past twelve months have been exceptional.

The aim of this review is to give you the opportunity to read about the work of the unique partnership that underpins our work. Working in partnership, The Sisters of Mercy, Providence Row Charity, and Providence Row Housing Association have continued to help the homeless and dispossessed of the City and East End of London.

We are determined to maintain and develop our capacity to respond to those needs other organisations cannot meet. As many of our supporters will know, our primary work centres on those who are beyond the reach of government programmes and quick-fix initiatives. We are relatively small, but we are determined to use all our resources to provide people with the help, dignity and services they deserve.

We have always helped the dispossessed without judging them, and by applying our principles and values in this way we have continued to help the most needy during the past year. This work wouldn't be possible without your support. Hopefully, this review will reassure you that we have used your generosity to good effect.

We look forward to working with you over the next year.

Steven Lee-Foster
Director, Providence Row Charity

Gary Lashko
Chief Executive, Providence Row Housing Association

A year of challenges, change and success

The past year has been a hectic one for the charity and the housing association. Key milestones have been achieved including the sale of the Charity's properties at Crispin Street in Spitalfields. The Charity has now commenced the search for new offices, and is investing in new services and projects for the most needy in the City and East End of London. The year also saw the opening of the Drapers' City Foyer at Weavers' Field by Her Majesty The Queen, and a visit from the Lord Mayor of London.

While we continue to enjoy a high profile, our day-to-day work remains the key focus of our endeavours. Day after day, night after night, we strive to provide essential help and support to across a very broad spectrum of needs. Much of the current debate about preventing homelessness and reducing rough sleeping is dominated by the inevitable clamour for new ideas and influence. At Providence Row, the partnership continues to devote all its resources to the practical needs of those who remain out of the reach of the statutory services.

J's story

'J' appeared at our van one night scared and hungry. She was frightened to go back to her flat because she had not earned enough money. She told us that her boyfriend was very violent, so we took her to the Dellow Centre and made up an emergency bed. We were unable to get a vacancy in a women's refuge so J chose to continue sleeping in the bed on an interview room floor. We discovered that the police knew of the boyfriend and considered him dangerous. As soon as a room became available we were able to help her stop her 'work' and get a job.

Joining forces: Providence Row Charity and Just Ask Ltd

Providence Row Charity may be 140 years old, but age has not affected its ability to see needs and plan to address them. One of the prime needs in society today is the prevention of homelessness and the spiral which can so easily suck in vulnerable people. On the 1 April 2001 we completed a merger with the specialist advice and counselling service known as Just Ask. By teaming up with Just Ask we are now able to provide outreach, advice, and a long-term counselling service to the most vulnerable.

Just Ask's origins go back to 1979, when it was established to provide counselling and advice to homeless, unemployed and low-waged young people in London. Because of the similarity of our aims and the common client-group, the two organisations have spent a year or so working towards a merger. The experience and resources of Providence Row together with the expertise of Just Ask will ensure that we can develop the service in partnership in the future..

Steve's Story:

Steve found himself broke and homeless in London last January. He had lost his wife, home, and best friend. He was in a bad shape, a 'big blob of pain, terrified to sleep, panic attacks coming in waves...'. Steve then met John, from Just Ask. Finally, somebody else knew the pain he was going through and was there as a stable source of reference when there was nothing else.

“I’m almost a year down the road now and I don’t suppose I’ll tell my story to anyone else. It’s the dead past and I don’t want to be that person anymore. John can have the legacy. Thanks John, see you Tuesday.”

The practical achievements: Our key projects and services

Bartlett House – This facility is an integral part of the Dellow Centre and provides 8 single rooms with showers for women, and a roof garden. In addition, there are 5 single sex 2-person flats for men or women. Staff cover is provided 24 hours a day.

Dellow Centre hostel – Thirty single rooms for men are provided in groups of five. The project is staffed 24 hours a day and is integrated with the drop-in centre and Bartlett House. Men between 21 and 65, particularly those who have slept rough, are able to access this accommodation.

Dellow Centre drop-in – On the ground floor of a purpose-built premises the day centre provides warmth, food, and friendship for up to 170 people a day. Specialist health, advice and other services are also available.

Edward Gibbons House – Thirty-one single rooms are provided for long-term male and female drinkers who have slept rough and who are still drinking. The project provides 24 hour care for the most vulnerable.

Daniel Gilbert House – This project provides 37 single rooms and 26 bedsits for men and women. In addition, there are 19 self-contained flats for single people within the building.

Drapers’ City Foyer – Located at Weavers’ Field in Bethnal Green this second generation foyer provides accommodation for forty-two 16-25 year olds an access to training and education facilities. There is also a local community café, computer training facility and meeting room.

In addition, Providence Row Housing Association also provides a range of other hostels and supported housing initiatives in the City, and the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

As well as accommodation we also provide resettlement and advice services, outreach services for commercial sex workers in the Brick Lane area of east London, a volunteering project for women, counselling services, an art project, and a large volunteer programme.

Her Majesty The Queen Opens the Drapers’ City Foyer at Weavers’ Field

Wednesday the 13th of December 2000 was a day that marked another milestone in the long history of Providence Row. Her Majesty the Queen formally opened the Foyer in the presence of almost two hundred guests representing many of our supporters, local authorities, and the local community. The occasion was hosted by Providence Row’s Patron, The Duke of Norfolk. The Foyer is named “Drapers’ City Foyer” to commemorate the significant funding given by the Drapers Livery Company of the City of London.

During her visit Her Majesty was presented to a number of people who have been instrumental in the successful setting up of the project. Also presented to her were some of the young people who have

recently moved into the foyer. The Queen's visit provided a fitting tribute to the many people who have worked so hard to ensure the project's success. The visit generated a great deal of interest in the local and national media.

Ms T's Story

Ms T came to live in the foyer in May 2000 having been forced to leave the flat she shared with her partner after becoming a victim of domestic violence. The foyer gave her the safety and stability needed for her to continue her employment as a retail assistant in a West End fashion store. Last summer she was promoted to shop manager. With our help she negotiated this on a part-time basis to give her time to complete her studies in leisure and tourism. Ms T has successfully completed the course and also a six week placement in the community café. With the encouragement of her key worker, Ms T has now secured her dream job, Customer Care Manager with British Airways at Heathrow Airport.

Art Exhibition Roadshow

Following its successful launch our Millennium Art Exhibition has toured a variety of different venues in and around the City of London. Accountants, Mazars Neville Russell, hosted it for two weeks in their offices, to the delight of staff and visitors. The Leathersellers' Livery Company also had the opportunity to view the artwork at a special event. "Streams of Light" was the theme chosen for the display at the church of St Botolph Without Bishopsgate, where the Exhibition stood for two weeks. Members of the general public had a further opportunity of viewing the Exhibition when it went to the Brady Arts Centre, a community arts project in the heart of London's East End. Since then the exhibition has been shown in the British Bankers' Association and Clifford Chance.

Lord Mayor Visits Providence Row

The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Clive Martin OBE, visited Providence Row on 5th May 2000. Alderman Martin and Mrs Martin, together with Mrs Sheriff Pauline Halliday and Mr Peter Halliday were shown around the Drapers' City Foyer Foyer. The visit of the Lord Mayor is a mark of the City's interest in our work and the foyer in particular. The Foyer is named after the Drapers' Livery Company, which made a generous grant of some £300,000 to help with its construction.

Training for the future

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, visited the Drapers' City Foyer on 8 March to open an Information and Communication Technology Centre which brings computer and internet skills within the reach of local people. The first of more than one thousand UK Online Centres funded by the Government, the centre will offer easy access to new technology not only for the residents of the Foyer, but also for people in the local community. The Centre was fitted out in record time, with the help of a substantial grant from the City financial services company, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Users of the Centre's facilities will be able to learn how to "surf the Web".

Goodbye to Crispin Street – for now!

The Providence Row refuges are now closed. Some of the oldest hostels in London have now finally closed their doors. The refuges were purpose built in the 1860s and have been in use ever since. Primarily used to shelter homeless and poor people, during the War they accommodated soldiers, and provided a civic canteen for local families. The various services offered have always included work by the Sisters of Mercy, who remain involved in our work to day. The Charity has retained a freehold interest in the properties and in the future they may once again become available to meet the needs of the poor and destitute. In the meantime, their development enables the site to be modernised and avoid falling into dilapidation. The Charity remains in close contact with the new owners The Osborne Group and Manhattan Loft Corporation.

Legal Eagles Help the Homeless

A group of young legal high-fliers from the City of London provided a fantastic Christmas lunch for 170 homeless people at the Dellow Centre this year. The meal was a truly memorable occasion, and formed part of a programme of activities by the City-based international law firm of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. The company has risen to the challenge to provide not just meals but also a new coat of paint to our Edward Gibbons House hostel for homeless people with severe drink problems. Trainee lawyers repainted the residents' lounge, re-covered dining room chairs and even clearing rubbish from a storeroom - all in one day! Providence Row is extremely grateful to Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer for funding all the food and materials for their challenges. The paint for Edward Gibbons House was donated by CRASH, the construction industry charity.

Companies support Providence Row

Local businesses, Livery Companies and major corporations companies have been rushing to help Providence Row over the year. Assistance has been provided in a variety of forms - everything from cash donations, to gifts in kind, painting, decorating and gardening services, and even the provision of a website for Providence Row Charity!

If there is one thing that appeals to business people it is being faced with a challenge! Over the past year companies such as Bain & Co, one of the world's largest management consultancy firms, have helped us by giving their time and expertise. The accountancy firm of HLB Kidson's took on a decorating challenge and really benefited from the sense of camaraderie the exercise brought to their staff. All the companies which take on our challenges comment on the benefits they bring to staff.

Once again the Glovers' Livery Company made its much appreciated Christmas donation of woollen gloves for residents. The Master, Mr James Clarke, visited Edward Gibbons House to make the presentation, and was taken on a tour of the project by the Charity's director, Steven Lee-Foster.

City of London Quiz Night

In March twenty teams from across the City of London competed against each other for our quiz shield at an event hosted by Herbert Smith. After many gruelling rounds on a challenging and diverse range of topics, Danske Bank emerged as the winners. The winning team were presented with their trophy by the Quiz Master, Alderman John Hughesdon. The quiz and raffle raised £5,000 towards our work, and we hope that next year's event will be just as successful. At the start of the evening, we were presented with a

cheque for £6,500 from Aukett Europe representing the sponsorship collected on their annual bike ride fundraising event for us.

Providence Row Charity Takes to Cyberspace

“Would you like to have a website built?” This was the question posed to us when we answered a ‘phone call from Bain & Co. While we had been planning a site for some time we didn’t have the technical expertise to build one ourselves. The offer of help from Bain & Co came at just the right time. Their team worked extremely hard to build a straightforward site which will be of great interest to our existing and potential supporters. Please visit our site at providencerow.org.uk.

Thanks to all our supporters

The following were among our supporters in the last twelve months, either through financial support, gifts in kind or help with practical tasks. Individuals are not listed, since so many prefer to remain anonymous. Our grateful thanks are extended to everyone who helps us with our work.

Corpus Christ Church, Weston-Super-Mare
English Martyrs’ Church, Tower Hill
Our Lady Immaculate Church, Limehouse
Our Lady of Dolours Church, Fulham
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead
Our Lady’s Church, St John’s Wood
Sacred Heart Church, Stoke-on-Trent
St Augustine’s Church, Hoddesdon
St Barnabas Church, Ealing
St Botolph Without Bishopsgate Church, City of London
St Edward’s Church, Romford
St Joseph’s Church, Grove Park
St Mary Moorfields Church, City of London
St Mary’s Church, Battersea
St Mary’s Church, Hornchurch
St Michael & St Martin’s Church, Hounslow
The Immaculate Conception Church, Mayfair

Cardinal Pole School, Hackney
English Martyrs’ School, Tower Hill
Our Lady’s School, Limehouse
St Patrick’s School, Romford

Benedictines of Pluscarden Abbey
Benedictines of Quarr Abbey
Catholic Women’s League
Dominican Sisters (Congregation of Newcastle, Natal)
English Dominican Sisters (Congregation of Stone)
Faithful Companions of Jesus

Ilford Catholic Club
Institute of Our Lady of Mercy
Marist Fathers
Poor Clare Colletines, Baddesley Clinton
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Society of St Vincent de Paul
St Erconwald's Social Club, Wembley
Union of Catholic Mothers
Union of the Sisters of Mercy

Albert Hunt Trust
City of London Justice Rooms Charitable Trust
Defence Social Services Association
Help the Aged
Jaffe Family Relief Fund
Lazard Charitable Trust
Morgan Stanley International Foundation
Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust
The Ancaster Trust
The Coopers' Livery Company
The Drapers' Livery Company
The Feltmakers' Livery Company
The Fitton Trust
The Glovers' Livery Company
The Joiners' and Ceilers' Livery Company
The Leathersellers' Livery Company
The London Housing Foundation
The Mitchell City of London Charity & Educational Foundation
The Mrs F B Laurence 1976 Charitable Settlement
The Needlemakers' Livery Company
The Peter Beckwith Charitable Trust
The Philanthropic Trust
The Plumbers' Livery Company
The Secretaries' and Administrators' Livery Company
The Simpson Foundation
The Tudor Trust
The W F Charitable Trust
The Wheelwrights' Livery Company
William Arthur Rudd Memorial Fund

Akeler Services
Aukett Europe
Bain & Co
Barclays Bank plc
Bates, Wells & Braithwaite

Bristow Johnson & Partners
Broadgate Estates Ltd
Buchanan Ingersoll Service Ltd
City of London Magistrates Court
Clifford Chance
CRISIS Fareshare
Danske Bank
Deutsche Asset Management Ltd
Devonshires
Double Click
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Goldman Sachs International Ltd
H L B Kidson
HSBC plc
KPMG
Lazard Brothers
Marks & Spencer plc
Mazars Neville Russell
Norton Rose
Osborne Clark
Singer & Friedlander plc
The British Bankers' Association
Whitbread plc

Who's Who in Providence Row

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Norfolk KG GCVO CB

Vice-Presidents: Mr C B Gough
Mr Alderman J M Y Oliver
Mr Richard Sermon
Mr Peter P Rigby CBE JP
Mr Alderman J S Hughesdon
The Lady Remnant
Mrs Joan Wheeler Bennett

Providence Row Housing Association

Mr Gordon Holloway (Chairman)
Mr Nicholas J Brittain
Major Nigel Collins
Mr Malcolm Rennie
Mr Michael Butcher
Mr Simon Bartley
Ms Chris Yanetski

Providence Row Charity

Mr Simon Bartley (Chairman)
Mr Charles E Bellord
Sister Helen Costigane SHCJ
Sister Evelyn Gallagher RSM
Sister M Francesca O'Brien RSM
Mr Mark Guiver
Dr Nerys Roberts

Sister Evelyn Gallagher RSM
Ms Lynn Vickery
Major John Boyd

Mr Dan J Regan
Mr Michael Stobart
Father Peter Harris
Sister Patricia McMahon RSM
Mr Howard Doe
Mr Philip Boxer (Co-opted)

Chief Executive
Gary Lashko

Director
Steven Lee-Foster

Sub-Committees

Father David Barnes
Dr Richard Smith
Mr Mervyn Wolfsohn
Ms Ann Marie Dixon-Barrow
Mr Lanre Sholola

Sub-Committees

Dr Michael Wright
Mr Brian Lay
Ms Donna Notaro (Co-opted)
Professor John Walton (Co-opted)
Mr Daniel Moore (Co-opted)

The Union of the Sisters of Mercy of Great Britain

Congregational Leader:

Sister Evelyn Gallagher RSM

Charity Co-ordinator:

Sister M Winefride Biddle RSM

Providence Row consists of Providence Row Charity* and Providence Row Housing Association working closely with the Sisters of Mercy.

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*Providence Row Night Refuge and Home (Registered Charity No 207454)

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Providence Row Charity needs your support to continue its important work. ANY donation you can make will help. We depend on voluntary contributions to meet the running costs of many of our services.

- We try to celebrate the major religious and secular festivals for the clients of our Drop-in Centre with a special meal. A donation of £5 will help provide a meal for a homeless person.
- £20 covers the cost of an hour's professional counselling and advice session for a homeless person.
- £45 meets the cost of providing art materials and a tutor to help a homeless person discover and develop their artistic talent.

If you are a taxpayer, you can help Providence Row Charity increase the value of your donation by declaring that you are making a Gift Aid donation. There is no minimum qualifying amount for Gift Aid donations and you can cancel the arrangement at any time with immediate effect or from any such date that you specify. To qualify for Gift Aid you must pay Income or Capital Gains Tax equal at least to the amount the Charity can reclaim on your donations in the tax year. This is currently 28p for every £1 you donate. If your future circumstances change and you no longer pay Tax equal to the amount the Charity can reclaim you should cancel the arrangement. If you pay Income Tax at a higher rate, you should reclaim the further amount in your Self-Assessment Return.

I enclose a donation of £_____ for the work of Providence Row.

Please charge £_____ to my Visa / MasterCard / CharityCard
(please circle relevant card)

Card Number:-

Expiry Date:

Signature : _____ Date : _____

Please indicate if you wish your donation to go to any particular area of our work.

Whether you are enclosing cash or a cheque or paying by credit card, please complete the following:-

- I am not a taxpayer
- I am a taxpayer and I want Providence Row Charity to treat as Gift Aid donations (see notes below):
- This donation of £_____
- All donations I have made since 6th April 2000 or such date as specified here _____ and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise.

Signature : _____ Date: _____

Name : _____

Address : _____

_____ Post Code _____

Please send me further information about :

- Legacies
- Donations in Kind
- Volunteering

Please return to : Providence Row Charity, The Dellow Centre, 82 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA