

Street Angels Halifax

 FAIRTRADE Café **YMCA**
STREET ANGEL CHURCHES
TOGETHER

First Annual Report
December 2006

www.streetangels.org.uk



Wow - who would have thought a year ago that Street Angels would tap into something significant? As the church in Halifax we had a vision to bring God's Kingdom of love, peace, joy, hope, safety and security to the streets and people of our town. Street Angels was the first outworking of this vision -and it has worked!

In the first year we have helped and assisted over 1000 people, we have added immense value of time (at least 10 volunteers for 12 hours each week) and funding into the town centre, we have promoted and worked in partnership with several other agencies, and together we have seen our town centre become safer with crime consistently falling by over 40%.

This is all thanks to the wonderful

Street Angel volunteers - who week after week invest time until 3am to making a difference in our town. This is also thanks to those partners (see page 4) who have assisted in so many ways to making our role on the streets a lot easier!

As we move forward into our second year, with the massive backing of the CFfC Project of the Year, we can: continue making a difference in Halifax; look Calderdale wide; partner with others in the UK running similar Street Angels projects; invest training and support for our volunteers.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this project...

*Paul and Jean Blakey
on behalf of Street Angels*

streetangels.org.uk

"Halifax is a quality night out and getting back to how things used to be, Police, street wardens and 'Street Angels' keep the streets safe..."

From The Knowhere Guide - www.knowhere.co.uk

"Street Angels? What a great idea. I congratulate everyone working to make Halifax a safer place at night without taking the fun out of life. Christians - get to it!"

The Most Revd & Right Hon. Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York



"The Street Angels project has made a huge impact on Halifax Town Centre over the last year. They really are the heart and soul of our partnership's work to make Halifax a safe and welcoming place to visit in the evening."

Andrew Sloman - Calderdale Council Nightlife Coordinator

"Please keep up the fantastic work..."

Jonathan - manager Acapulco Club

"Halifax is a lucky place to have you"



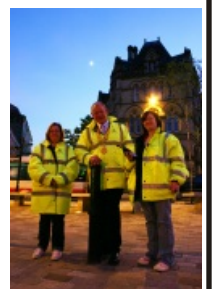
*Connecting people who care
with local causes that matter*

"This will be the Foundation's fourth Project/Organisation of the Year and we are very excited at the prospect of supporting the Street Angels project as it enters a second year. Recently I attended a meeting, along with the Chair of the Foundation, with Dr Ingrid Roscoe the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire... after having exchanged pleasantries and sat down Ingrid enquired as to how the Street Angels project was doing in Halifax, and proceeded to tell us how the Halifax model is being followed in other areas with great success! This is a testament and credit to all the time and commitment given freely by the team of volunteers.

Throughout 2007 the Foundation will give a percentage of monies raised at major events to Street Angels and will work with Foundation donors and partners to raise in the region of £60,000 to enable the Project to employ a full time Co-ordinator.

On behalf of our members, Trustees and staff at the Foundation I congratulate on your first and very successful year in making Halifax a safer and more welcoming place at night".

Steve Duncan CEO Community Foundation for Calderdale



Highlights of the first year...

November 05 - Churches Together in Halifax set up a working group to look at ways we can make a difference in our town. The Fairtrade Café, in part of the YMCA, was launched in September. Amongst the ideas was work within the night-time economy. Paul Blakey approached Sergeant Dave Apsee from Halifax Police and two weeks later a pilot project of a safe place and safe people on Friday and Saturday 9pm - 3am was launched. On the first evening the name Street Angels was chosen and by night 2 fluorescent jackets were purchased with laminated "Street Angels" stuck on with sellotape! 50 volunteers came forward over the first weekend, some helped by front page news in the Courier.

December 05 - over December Street Angels ran each weekend - we helped 69 people and were kept very busy. An interview on Radio Leeds, a feature in the Courier and fundraising in the Acapulco helped raise our profile! We coped with "mad Friday" and New Years Eve and ensured that Halifax had one of the quietest Christmas periods for many years! The pilot project, by popular demand, committed to a year...

January 06 - town became quieter - the police levels were back to normal (the police numbers had increased thanks to AMEC money) and we took chance to evaluate and streamline the work we were carrying out.

February 06 - a busier month - Street Angels had well and truly become known around town as safe people.

March 06 - conflict training by the police helped many Street Angels become more confident in the role they play each weekend. Peggy from Radio Leeds joined us on a icy, snowy night to report on Street Angels in action.

April 06 - the first Friday saw a visit from The Rt Hon Lord Mawhinney Kt who was very interested in the project and took news of it back home to Peterborough. The project then saw St John Ambulance begin a partnership offering first aid help in the town which assists in relieving some of the pressure on A&E and the Ambulance Service. News of this made Yorkshire Post and various radio stations. John and Aleta Nichols from America also visited the project and Easter Sunday night proved very busy with even the Mayor Councillor John Williamson and Deputy Mayor Councillor Joyce Cawthra dropping in!

May 06 - The Acapulco club donated left behind coats which we sold on a market stall. The St John project committed long term. A launch party was held in the YMCA with a talks from the Chief Superintendent Ian Levitt and Inspector Vince Firth; Andrew Sloman of the Nightlife Initiative; Angus Henderson CEO of

Halifax YMCA; Jonathan Fenton of Acapulco Nightclub; John Shepherd of Action Halifax; Matthew Gostridge of St John Ambulance and Mayor of Calderdale Colin Stout. The Mayor, Mayoress and Deputy Lieutenant then joined us on patrol (the Mayor and Mayoress won the prize in the Acca for best jewelled people!!!)

June 06 -The World Cup saw the Marshals back on the streets (Halifax led the way in Street Marshals Christmas 04) and they proved helpful in addressing fights and violence. Street Angels helped with the Halifax Gala procession and stifled in very hot weather! The World Cup period was fairly peaceful... We also hosted a visitor from Brazil - Dario Luiz.

July 06 - a steady month as summer holidays set in. A group from Harrogate visited to look at the work we do - and are set to launch December 06.

August 06 - the highlight of the month for many was the thank you reception hosted at Halifax Town Hall by Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Ann Stout. Paul and Jean's wedding was also a good day and Street Angels jackets featured in the pictures!!! Street Angels and Fairtrade also had a stand at the Halifax Agricultural Show which helped link our work with the wider community.

September 06 - another Street Angels wedding - this time John and Sheana who met at the Café!!! After the summer we re-focussed and prepared for the increasing busyness up to Christmas.

October 06- a busy month - Damian and John (along with Vince Firth and Andrew Sloman) were invited to the Huddersfield Street Angels launch event and all spoke well about the work we carry out.

November 06 - To celebrate our first anniversary we were delighted that Community Foundation for Calderdale chose Street Angels as the Project of the Year 2007. Halifax MP Linda Riordan joined us on our birthday and went on a club-crawl round Halifax, and BBC's Look North filmed us making the lunchtime news! We also had a visit from the Duke of York Community Fund and Deo Musoke from Uganda. Damian and Paul were also interviewed live on Radio Leeds Breakfast Show.

"The street Angels project has been very successful in its first year. The volunteers have assisted a large amount of vulnerable people, who without their assistance may have become a victim of crime. The public spirited kindness displayed by the Street Angels is outstanding. Calderdale is without a doubt a safer place because of their efforts. I am very proud to be associated with this scheme."

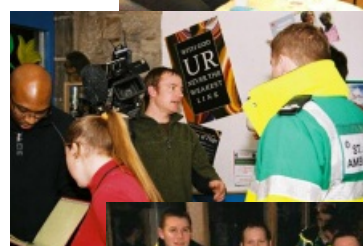
Inspector Vincent Firth NPT - Halifax Police

Sponsorship, Support and Promotion:

The biggest thanks has to go to the 60 volunteers - without these wonderful people Street Angels would not happen.... Thanks for the time, dedication, finances and commitment to making Street Angels happen week after week...

Acapulco Nightclub
Action Halifax
Baptist Times
BBC Radio Leeds / BBC Look North
Burgerland, George Square
Calderdale Council Safer Communities
Calderdale Council Nightlife Initiative
Calderdale Council Town Centre APT
Carlton URC
CCTV operators
Churches Together in Halifax
City Links Redeeming our Communities
Community Foundation for Calderdale
County Towns Calderdale Initiative
Fairtrade Café volunteers
Faithworks
Georgia Prosser and Albie Harrup
Good News website
Good Life Books / Pi Internet Home Build
Halifax Courier
Halifax Parish Church
Halifax Town Centre Management and Forum
Halifax Town Centre Neighbourhood Police
Halifax YMCA - premises and insurance
Harvey's of Halifax
Highgate Methodist Church
Home FM
Individuals
Inspire On-line
Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Colin and Ann Stout
New Life Newspaper
New Start Magazine
Nightlife Marshals
Premier Christian Radio
Providence URC
PubWatch Halifax
Real Radio
Rotary Club of Halifax
St Augustine's, Hanson Lane
St John Ambulance
St Paul's Methodist, Sowerby Bridge
Salvation Army Halifax
Society of Friends - Quakers
The King's Church
UCB Radio
United Reformed Church Halifax Group
Wakefield Diocese
West Yorkshire Police Community Trust Fund
West Yorkshire Police AMEC Funding
Yorkshire and Humber Regional Government
Yorkshire Post

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Other towns have visited or talked to the Halifax Street Angels, and similar projects have launched or are in the planning in Grimsby, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Huddersfield, Manchester, Newbury, Rochdale, Todmorden, Wakefield and Worthing.

"What a fantastic, God inspired and God blessed project. You don't need a faith to see the impact on the town. The figures speak for themselves. Well done guys. Hats off too to the likes of the police, council, licensees, YMCA and CCTV radio for supporting you."

Jeremy Clough - Coordinator Town Pastors Harrogate