

www.streetangels.org.uk



Halifax Street Angels was launched in November 2005, born out of God inspiring Churches Together in Halifax to look at needs in our Town. Halifax had a reputation as the 'Wild West of West Yorkshire' with violence, binge drinking, sexual assaults and on street drunkenness commonplace on Friday and Saturday nights.

The possibility, of using the Fairtrade Cafe (a joint venture between Churches Together in Halifax and Halifax YMCA) as a 'safe place' between 9pm and 3am on Friday and Saturday, was put to Halifax Town Centre Police. With fantastic support from both the Police team and local Christians, StreetAngels became a reality just 2 weeks after the initial idea.

The project launched and was a success! Volunteers, mainly from Halifax's churches with real concern for the town and its people, put words and faith into action and made a difference, demonstrating that God's Kingdom of peace, safety, harmony and help for the vulnerable is actually possible.

With effective partnership working (Street Angels working with Police, Halifax Ambassadors, Halifax Town Centre Management, pubs and clubs, Calderdale Council, media, Action Halifax, Todmorden Together, local businesses, PubWatch, Calderdale Community Foundation, HBOS and many others) and with an investment of over 8000 volunteer hours each year, Street Angels has continued to help those who are vulnerable in Halifax and helped reduce violent crime in the Town by 42% (in 2006 and by over 20% in 2007)

Other towns and cities, not only in the UK but across the World, have visited the project and launched Street Angels (and similar initiatives) for themselves. In July 2008 a "Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network" was launched as a way of working together effectively.

For more information or to help launch Street Angels in your town or city visit our web site at www.streetangels.org.uk.

"Thank you for all the help you gave us. I think they should have organisations like yours in most towns." - *Peta from Rochdale*

"I want people to enjoy the night life of Halifax but most of all, I want them to stay safe. All too often the affects of alcohol mean that people come to the notice of the police, either as victims or perpetrators. Early intervention and support by the volunteer Street Angels can and does prevent this. I am delighted that the Street Angels are involved in a co-ordinated approach to ensuring that Halifax remains a safe place." - *Chief Supt. Ian Levitt, Divisional Commander Calderdale Police*

"I have not encountered such an effective co-operative approach across the UK" *Nick Clegg - Leader of the Liberal Democrats (on a visit to Halifax to look at Street Angels, Halifax Ambassadors, Police and Nightlife Marshals)*

"We were very glad to identify with the work of Street Angels in Halifax on Saturday night. Your presence on the streets is highly visible and in the immediate few minutes of beginning our time with you it was obvious that people knew they could call for help." - *Commissioners John and Elizabeth Matear, leaders of the Salvation Army in UK and Ireland*

"The Street Angels initiative which is set to start work in Bradford, has apparently been a great success in Halifax... Halifax is now said to be a much safer place for local people to go for a night out. This is just what Bradford needs... With two years under its belt, the Street Angels organisation can reasonably claim to have proved itself. We look forward to seeing similar results in Bradford." *from Telegraph and Argus Comment, 21-11-2007*



Halifax Town Centre Ambassadors



The Halifax Town Centre Ambassadors Scheme was established in March 2003 as an on-street uniformed customer service team. Over time and due to their success their role has expanded to include more crime prevention work.

The Ambassadors patrol Halifax Town Centre Monday to Saturday during daylight hours. They wear a high visibility uniform and act as a first point of contact for both businesses and individuals. All Ambassadors are first aid, health & safety, conflict management and customer service trained. They are Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked and linked to the CCTV operators, shops, Police and other on-street patrols via the Radiolink Scheme which they run.

In addition to routine patrols the team often help to steward events, give guided tours around the town centre and help with emergency situations when required. They go and meet with vulnerable groups and offer them advice on how to keep themselves safe whilst in the town centre.

The Town Centre Ambassadors aim to improve the attractiveness of Halifax Town Centre by reporting issues of graffiti, litter, broken paving, damaged phone boxes/bus shelters and damage to property.

Each of the Ambassadors is responsible for an area within the Town Centre. They make sure they know the manager of each business within their area thus building an invaluable rapport with the business community.

All in all the Ambassadors have provided a positive image for Halifax, reducing the number of crime related incidents within the town and offering reassurance to the businesses and individuals.

For more information on the Halifax Town Centre Ambassadors Scheme please contact Beth Ward, Halifax Town Centre Manager - email tcm@halifaxuk.co.uk or call 01422 360035

"Ambassadors came to help and were very proactive in making decisions and phone calls to ensure the safety of an elderly chap who seemed confused. This is the community teamwork we have worked towards. We thank the Ambassadors for their co-operation. May this spirit of co-operation continue in the future" *Manager of Halifax Bus Station*

"A brief note to thank you for the help of your Ambassadors yesterday, they couldn't have been more helpful. Each one of them is a credit to your organisation" *Theresa Deighton-Power, Calderdale Children's Fund*

"Halifax Town Centre Ambassadors are key to the partnership working helping make Halifax a safer town. The professionalism and commitment shown by the team at Halifax Town Centre Management is a credit to the town. Through daytime patrols, training, Radiolink system and event coordination the Ambassadors are helping make the difference!" *Paul Blakey, Halifax Street Angels and Churches Together in Halifax*

"We find the help and support given to us by the ambassadors absolutely vital. They help us with issues we have regarding vandalism, parking problems, the loan of CCTV equipment as well as being helpful and offering assistance and information to Halifax shoppers." *Tracy Harvey of Harvey's of Halifax*



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