

MEDIA RELEASE - April 2006 Halifax Street Angels Project - Helping Make Halifax Safer!

The main vision and aim of StreetAngels is to make the streets of Halifax a safer place for those using the nightlife economy - for example night-clubbers, theatre patrons and those working within the town.



Set up by Churches Together in Halifax in association with Halifax YMCA November 2005, Street Angels aims to be the church in action and making a difference in one of the places it is needed the most. Staffed by around fifty Christian volunteers and based at the Fairtrade Café, at YMCA on Crossley Street, StreetAngels provides a drop in centre which is a safe place. It sends teams out on the streets of the town in fluorescent yellow jackets to offer help to those who have become vulnerable or simply those who want help and advice.

Since its launch StreetAngels has won the support and partnership of a wide range of bodies including: Halifax Neighbourhood Policing; Calderdale Council Nightlife Project; Yorkshire and Humber Regional Government; Halifax PubWatch; various pubs and nightclubs; and those using the night economy.

The project helped in reducing crime levels throughout December 2005 and on this basis the church in Halifax has committed long term to running Street Angels. As well as making Halifax a safer place, Street Angels has seen Christians in the town unite together in running the project with Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal and Salvation Army working as one.



As well as providing instant help, StreetAngels can advise on issues such as alcohol addiction, binge drinking or drugs and refer people to specialist agencies. Prayer and counselling are also available and space is provided for people to talk through some of the deeper emotional and spiritual issues in life. Situations witnessed such as violence on the streets are also prayed about by Street Angels (who don't directly become involved in conflict). We find that because of our prayers potentially ugly scenes are transformed and are resolved peacefully.

A new partnership starting April 2006 will see St John Ambulance based at Fairtrade Café to provide first aid assistance for those who suffer minor cuts and bruises. This "patch and dispatch" service will help ease the pressure on overloaded services in the busy Accident and Emergency unit in Calderdale Royal Hospital.

Other towns and cities across Yorkshire who have heard the positive difference Street Angels makes are looking into setting up similar projects.

StreetAngels runs each Friday and Saturday 9pm - 3am in Halifax town centre.

More images at www.streetangels.org.uk - downloads
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