



Companion story – Stephen

I have always worked hard, but life took a couple of wrong turns after my parents died.

Things spiralled until I found myself homeless and living on the streets of London for a year and four days. I remember exactly how long it was.

I went to the doctor as my health was deteriorating and I ended up getting another flat, but it was nowhere near anything I knew. I tried getting a job but I found that I couldn't afford to go to work and I was better off on benefits.

I despaired of that life and I took myself off to Brighton where I slept in a hut on the beach for six weeks. It was at a day centre there that I found out about Emmaus. I moved to Emmaus Hampshire first of all, which is where I started learning the carpentry skills that I'm continuing to use now that I live at Emmaus Glasgow.

I am in my sixties now, but I still enjoy working. I have two roles – driving the vans for collections and deliveries, and restoring the furniture.

It makes me really proud when I manage to add value to the pieces we sell in the shop – the other day I saw something that I rescued from the scrap pile go for £170. That's money that will help run our community and I am glad to be able to contribute.



Get involved with Emmaus

There are lots of ways you can support Emmaus, helping us to continue our work to provide a home and meaningful work to those who have suffered homelessness and social exclusion in the UK.



Donate

Our social enterprises depend on donations of good quality second-hand items to keep them going, so next time you're having a clear out, why not donate the things you no longer need to Emmaus? We'll resell them in one of our shops and all of the money we make will help support our communities. We can even arrange to collect larger items free of charge.

Please contact 01482 223277



Shop with us

Our shops and social enterprises sell some amazing items that just can't be found on the high street, all at great prices. By shopping with us you're not only likely to pick up a bargain, you'll also be helping to provide a home for people who have experienced homelessness.



Volunteer with us

Volunteering with Emmaus can be a great way to gain work experience, or just get involved in a vibrant and bustling community. More information about volunteering opportunities can be found on our website.

Please get in touch...

Visit us at www.emmaus.org.uk/hull

 @Emmaus_Hull

Write to us at:
193 Newland Avenue, Hull HU5 2EN
Or call us on **01482 223 722**



emmaus Hull

working together to end homelessness



www.emmaus.org.uk/hull

About Emmaus

Emmaus is different to other homelessness charities, offering a home, not just a bed for the night.

Being homeless is about more than just losing the roof over your head. Those who have experienced homelessness often also lose their confidence, leading them to feel lonely and worthless.

This is where Emmaus can help, offering a home for as long as someone needs it, as well as meaningful work in our social enterprises.

Everyone who lives at an Emmaus community is expected to contribute to its upkeep, doing their bit to help run the business and keep the community going. This has a huge impact on restoring companions' self esteem, proving that their actions can make a big difference to their own life, and the lives of others.

“Emmaus is an organisation like no other in the way that it restores in people who have been marginalised a sense of their own worth and potential. It is no exaggeration to say that Emmaus changes lives.”

**Terry Waite CBE,
President of Emmaus UK**



So how does an Emmaus community work?

When someone comes to live at an Emmaus community, they become an Emmaus companion. They are given their own room, clothing, food and drink, as well as a small weekly allowance.

People can stay as long as they need to, as long as they agree to follow a few simple rules:

- Work for 40 hours per week, or as many hours as they are able to, in the charity's social enterprise.
- Agree they will not bring alcohol or illegal drugs onto the site.
- Sign off all benefits, with the exception of housing benefit.
- Agree to behave respectfully towards one another.

Social enterprise

Social enterprise is central to the Emmaus model as it provides meaningful work for companions but also generates the funding that maintains our communities.

The main business activity for Emmaus communities is collecting donated furniture and household goods and selling them in our shops. We also run Emmaus cafés, house clearance businesses, gardening projects and clothing shops.

What impact does Emmaus have?

Our research shows that work is one of the most beneficial factors of living in an Emmaus community, providing structure and stability for people who have often experienced very chaotic lives. In fact:

- 46% of companions who come to Emmaus do so because it offers them the opportunity to work.
- 82% of companions who have lived at Emmaus for a few months say the opportunity to work and having something to do every day have been most beneficial to them.
- 68% appreciate the routine Emmaus offers.

In addition to the benefits Emmaus offers to companions, our Social Return on Investment study shows that for every £1 spent with Emmaus, we generate £11 in social benefits, including savings to healthcare, the benefits bill and reductions in criminal offences.

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£11



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