ISLE OF WIGHT STREET PASTORS

bringing peace to the community

"when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me" Matt 25 v40. NIV

Community Action Award Winners 2010

Over 60 voluntary organisations originally entered the Community Action Awards Competition 2010. Having entered a well worded application form (well done Martin) we were short listed down to the final 18, grouped into 6 categories. I was then asked to do a 30 minute presentation to a panel of judges on our work here on the Island. Then on June 24th we were invited to attend the awards ceremony being held at the Riverside Centre. To my utter amazement we won the "local communities" category with a prize of £250. Then as a category winner we went through to the overall final with the other 5 category winners. My heart was pounding as they announced the runners up, and then the words that I didn't think I would hear, "the overall winners with a prize of £1500 are the Street Pastors". There were cheers for us from all the people in the hall. So many people afterwards were approaching me , Sue and Sally to congratulate us, thank us for the work that we do, and say what deserved winners we were. It was a very exciting, humbling evening and credit must go to everyone in the Street Pastor scheme who works so hard. My sincere thanks goes out to you all.

16 New Volunteers Commissioned at Newport Minster

Approximately 300 people attended our latest commissioning service held on May 28th. Once again we were honoured to have Roger Reid from The Ascension Trust lead the service with Arch Deacon Caroline Baston. Words of endorsement were given by High Sheriff Peter Kingston and Councillor Barry Abraham. Straight after the service four teams of Pastors hit the streets of Newport. The response from the public was amazing. Many people had heard about us from our work in Ryde, and many people had no idea who we were, but all were really pleased of our presence.

22 Street Pastors Graduated

The evening also allowed us to honour and celebrate all the hard work and dedication of the first wave of Street Pastors who have made such a difference to the Streets of Ryde over the past year. Each one was awarded a certificate signed by the CEO of Ascension Trust Rev Les Isaac.

We now have 38 Street Pastors from 20 different churches, which means we can have a team in Ryde and Newport every Friday night until 3am.

Our prayer team continues to grow

Every week we have offers from people who want to help this great scheme by praying for us when we are on the streets. We have a dedicated team of over 30 people who either come to the churches in Ryde and Newport or pray from home. The team is excellently managed by Roger Moseley . This work is so important to the success of this scheme, if you feel you can contribute in this way please contact me using the contact details below.

Financial Support

We have been so blessed over the last 6 months with financial support from different people and organisations. We now have over 40 people giving a regular monthly donation.

A massive thank you goes out to the "West Wight Churches together" who raised over £1000 through their Lenten Lunches appeal.

SAMARITANS

Thanks to the Samaritans for their support for the scheme, also a massive thank you to the "Scottish Fiddlers" who raised £200 , by putting on a fabulous concert. Thanks to A J Wells and Co for their constant support. Thanks to Jan, Sue, Sally, June, Andrew for the barn dance, boot sale, and bring and buy coffee morning. Thanks to the band "STOP!" who are raising money for us through the sales of their CDs.

If you would like to help us financially please visit our website where you can download a form to become a regular giver, or can give a one off donation. You can also download a copy of my "Street Pastor " song.

The website at www.iowstreetpastors.org.uk will keep you up to date with all things Street Pastor, please visit it regularly.

Quotes from the new team

"After my first night out as a Street Pastor, I knew that this is the path I should be on, many good interactions"-- Dawn

"I feel a mixture of emotions-inadequate,I cannot do this;privileged, to have been chosen by God to do it; humbled,to be able to serve God's people in this way"-- Carole

"Its both a challenge and an amazing opportunity to take the love of Jesus from inside the church to the outside, in a very practical way! I love it" -- Sue

"From day 1, I have felt nothing other than excitement and anticipation at the idea of meeting, talking with and trying to help people. Being a Street Pastor is the best way for me to demonstrate my faith in a practical way -- Robert

"Street Pastors - Wow! We are truly living Jesus' message. He wanted not mere followers, but disciples who will go out to spread his love and grace" -- Andrew

"When you see a person looking quite sad and then you say hi and offer them a chocolate, the smile that invariably comes is amazing. Then comes the question why? We say because we care and we want to show God's love and see people are OK " -- Dan

"It's a privilege , a closer deeper walk with God as we seek to minister to the various needs of our community" -- Dot

"Being embraced by the community, humbly in the presence of God and as an example of God's Love. Supported prayerfully in truth and love" -- Eve

"I feel very privileged .I have so much love for the work of Street Pastors but of course nothing can be done without the support of the Prayer Pastors, because through them God gives us all we need for our time out there on the streets" -- Sally

"I just knew it was something I had to do. It has been an amazing journey"-- Karen

"It has restored faith in my beliefs"-- Kevin

More Confirmation of our Good Community Work

On March 23rd Street Pastors were delighted to receive the High Sheriff's award "in recognition of great and valuable services to the community"

Picture courtesy of the IOW County Press

It is a very prestigious honour and I would like to thank Gay Edwards for her constant support and praise for this scheme.

Presentations

I am always happy to do presentations about our work. This picture was taken at the " Big Day Out" in 2009. However big or small your church group or organisation or social group, if you would like to book a presentation please contact me.

Interested?

Maybe you're feeling the call to become a Street Pastor in 2011. Give me a ring, we can have a chat. Every blessing to you all.

David Ouston---- Co-ordinator