



It's Volunteer's Week and although we can't celebrate with our team in person, we're still taking the opportunity to thank all of our volunteers at The Living Room.

It might be a bit of a cliché but volunteers really are the unsung heroes of any charity and ours are the hardest-working and most dedicated ones around – even if we are a bit biased!

From placement counsellors who work directly with our clients, the volunteers protecting and nurturing our clients' children, art therapists giving people a new creative outlet and community fundraisers keeping the charity financially alive, we're so lucky to have so many people willing to give their time and energy to help us out year after year.

Over the course of this week, we're going to be sharing our thoughts, favourite memories and thank-yous for these wonderful people via our digital channels, so keep an eye out, and if you've been touched by their contributions in any way, please share with us.

~ Adrienne Arthurs, Chief Executive



Our Watford Centre goes from Strength to Strength

Our Watford centre opened just over a year ago and in that time the team have worked so hard to get the service running smoothly, to get the word out to people living in the area and offer opportunities for people with addictions and their family and friends that they haven't had in that part of the county before.

Thanks to the team for their amazing work and congratulations to Laura, who has been promoted to Counselling Manager and to Derrick who is now our Deputy Counselling Manager. Take a bow!

A reminder of why we are here... A testimonial:

"I hear a saying in my fellowship that says you have a jackpot winning ticket if you have a seat in that fellowship. For me, the jackpot ticket seat is in The Living Room. I just hope that everyone that enters treatment doesn't leave before the magic happens because I can guarantee you that it does, because I'm proof."

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you so much to Trinity Church in Knebworth. Your donation of hand sanitizer for our centres is incredibly thoughtful during this time.



Thanks go out to North Herts CVS for sending us anti-bacterial gel – when we get back to normal ways of working, we can be confident that this will help us to keep our clients and staff safe.



We want to recognise the massive contribution that St. Pauls Church, in St Albans, have made to our service. St. Pauls have sent us a £3000 donation that's really appreciated.

20 Years of Service

It's Volunteers' week and we're sharing our thanks and some of our favourite memories of our wonderful volunteers on social media for the entire week.

But we just wanted to highlight an incredible milestone for one of our volunteers, Maureen. Maureen has been volunteering for The Living Room for 20 years, ever since we first opened! She comes in every week to help Susan and Jackie with our bookkeeping and we want to say a special thank you for her dedication after all this time.

Thank you Maureen and hopefully the flowers and the commemorative photo frame go some way towards thanking you for the amazing work you've done for such a long time.

You can check out more photos, videos and thank yous during volunteers' week on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

(Pictured left, Maureen being presented with her thank you gifts.)



Watford Helps

Watford Borough Council have organised Covid-19 appeal 'Watford Helps' to support charities at this time. They have organised an exciting quiz night to keep you entertained during lockdown. The Big Bold Community Quiz takes place every Sunday at 8pm hosted by Watford Mayor Peter Taylor, Watford FC star Luther Blissett and a host of other special guests.

Money raised from the quiz will go to the Community Fund created in partnership with Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) to support the fantastic charities involved in the COVID-19 relief effort in the town. Find out more via watfordcovidappeal.org/quiz

Special Note of Appreciation

An astonishing £500 was donated by former client Andrew as part of his commitment to step nine of the fellowship program:

"Part of a step 9 amends I've donated this money by the wish of an ex employer who I had dishonestly taken the money from. He has asked me to donate to this charity as I was a client back in 2018."

Thank you Andrew and we wish you well with your recovery!

Our Service: What does the Future Hold?

As you know, we have been running our groups successfully via Zoom during lockdown and we have been carrying out assessments and brief interventions over the phone in recent weeks.

Since we resumed assessments, we have had 19 new clients join our groups and we've received a number of direct enquiries. Our crèche has also supported parents with interactive activities every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

With lockdown slowly easing across parts of the country we are taking stock of the changes that have been beneficial for our clients and our staff and how we can incorporate these changes into our regular service when we eventually return to our centres.

These are still early days but our senior management are working out how to make our centres safe for in-person groups and appointments, and we are keen to continue providing online support for people who struggle to access our local centres. If we can come out of this crisis with a service that's open to more people we will be very happy.

Elsewhere, we are looking at options to reopen our Stevenage charity shops in line with government guidance. The government is allowing businesses to reopen on from 15th June, so staff will be preparing to open during that week. They can't wait to reopen and provide good quality, pre-loved items to the community. The seasons have changed and they have a lot of summer stock to sell!

We will let everyone know when they have reopened via our digital channels along with how they will be accepting donations.