

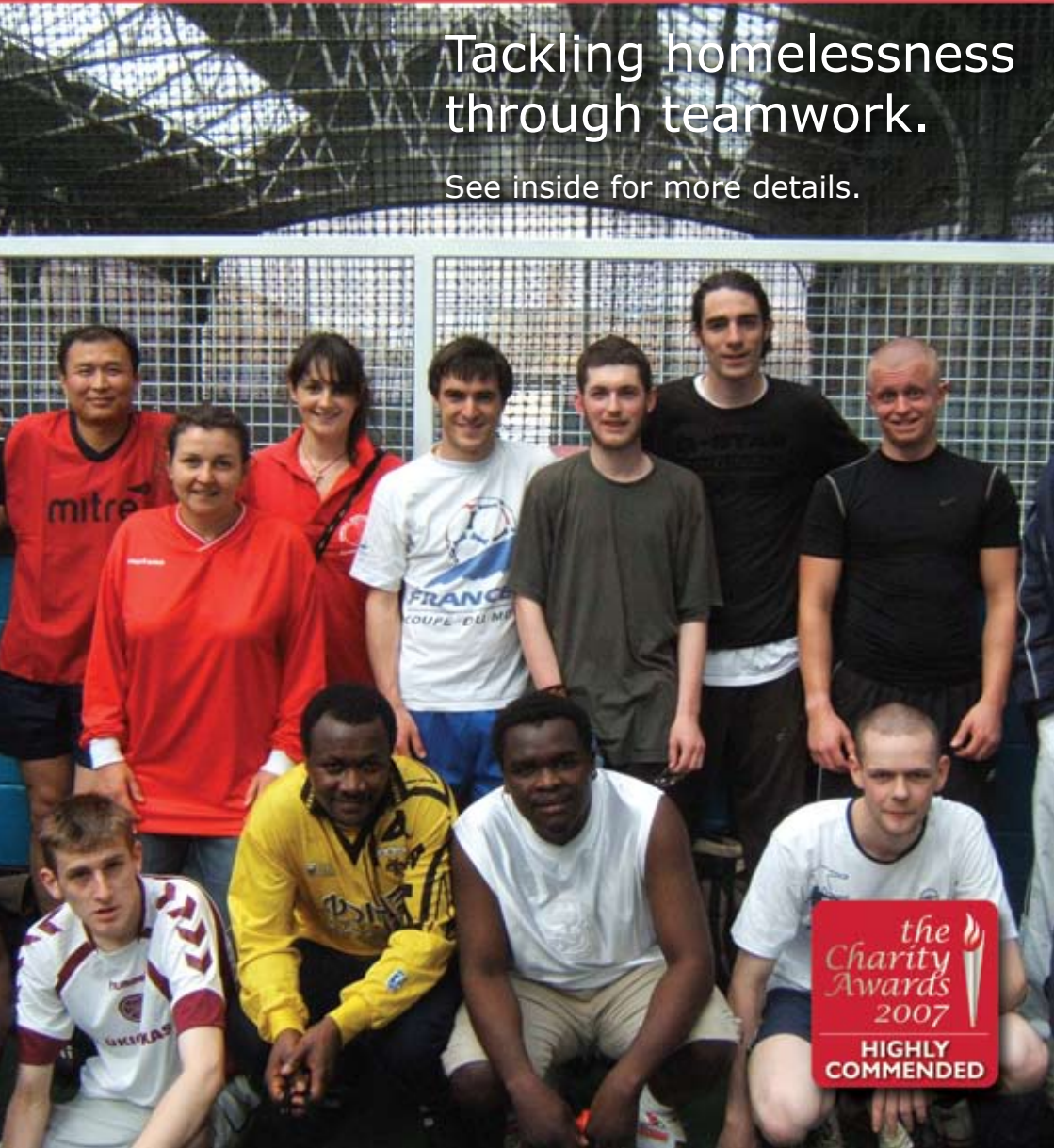


# Cyrenians

Summer 2007

Tackling homelessness  
through teamwork.

See inside for more details.





We are proud to report that our director, Des Ryan, won the Marks & Spencer Sieff Award at the Scottish Business in the Community annual awards. The Sieff award recognises an outstanding individual who demonstrates an understanding of the role that business can play in creating healthy and successful communities. The winner must show they have effectively collaborated with the corporate sector to benefit both society and business.

Des has worked in tackling homelessness in the UK for over 30 years and said, "Our charity's very practical partnerships with the business sector make a vital and lasting impact. Business partnerships, as well as charitable support, bring help to hundreds of people a year who have been homeless, in poverty and simply surviving on the margins of our society. Through this help people can get a home, a job, better health and – most importantly – hope for a better future as a valued member of our community." "Businesses and charities work very well together: we are both instinctively entrepreneurial, pragmatic and committed to seeing results and both want to operate in a healthy, cohesive and thriving community. We have a lot more business to do together."

Cyrenians was also short-listed in the social welfare category for the 2007 Charity Awards. The Charity Awards seek to reward excellence and the short-listed charities have all displayed this as a way of turning innovation, passion and vision into an effective project or organisation demonstrating considerable impact.

It is a great achievement for our work to be recognised in such a way.

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Good Food in Tackling Homeslessness Project  
84 - 86 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HG  
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Edinburgh Refugee Centre  
St George's West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RT  
Tel: 0131 226 1499 [refugees@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:refugees@cyrenians.org.uk)

Cyrenians Farm Community Tel: 0131 333 1392 [farm@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:farm@cyrenians.org.uk)  
Cyrenians City Community Tel: 0131 555 3707 [city@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:city@cyrenians.org.uk)

Charity Number SC011052



Social inclusion plays a big part in the Cyrenian mission. Creating opportunities for individuals to get involved in the community can help increase self-confidence and reduce feelings of isolation. The Cyrenians football team has been meeting on a weekly basis for several months now and is going from strength to strength. Residents from both the City and Farm communities, along with clients from the Refugee Centre and volunteers play together every Wednesday afternoon.

One of the players was chosen to represent Scotland in this year's Homelessness World Cup. The Scottish team went on to win the tournament.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join our football team, please call Christine on 0131 555 3707 or email [Christine@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:Christine@cyrenians.org.uk)



Team work was the order of the day for our entrants in this year's **Edinburgh Marathon**. Five groups of runners - made up of community residents, volunteers, staff, supporters and a team from Napier University - completed the 26.2 mile course to help raise funds for Cyrenians. Along with them we had two runners, Matt Findlay and David Allen, who ran the whole distance. In total over £3000 was raised through sponsorship and we would like to thank everyone for their involvement and hard work. A date for the 2008 marathon has already been set, so if you are free on May 25th and would like to run, as an individual or as part of a relay team, please contact Phil on 0131 475 2536 or email [phil@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:phil@cyrenians.org.uk)

The success of Edinburgh Cyrenians **'People with Potential'** scheme hit the airwaves recently as part of BBC Radio 4's Learning Curve broadcast. Discussing issues around the high number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET as they are known) the programme explores how Scotland is taking the lead in working with this group. Tommy Steele, the project manager, and four of our People with Potential participants were interviewed for the programme which was broadcast on June 4th. If you missed it, the programme can be heard via the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/learningcurve.shtml>

**Smart Move**, our Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme operates in both Edinburgh and West Lothian to help people access private rented sector accommodation. We are always on the look out for available flats for our clients. If you have, or know anyone who has, a flat waiting to be let out please get in touch with us. One bedroom flats are especially welcome! [smartmove@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:smartmove@cyrenians.org.uk)

## Cyrenians Farm

### **HBOS Try Out the Re-furbished Barn**

Our barn recently underwent a transformation when it was de-cluttered and turned into a functional space for our team challenge days. Eight staff from HBOS were the first to use it when they came for a hedgerow planting challenge in June. The group displayed their high-quality techniques and planted an impressive 27 metres in total. Through this event, Cyrenians also got the opportunity to set up a farm produce stall at the HBOS offices in Sighthill.



### **RBS Team Volunteer in the Local Community.**

Throughout May and June 2007, a dedicated and enthusiastic team of RBS employees put their time and effort into fundraising and volunteering on behalf of Cyrenians. The RBS group assigned each team member a different job in the organisation of the event. One organised parking, whilst others brought food and a barbeque and several brought spaces and forks. Pre-event fundraising proved a great way of preparing and giving more time and effort to the charity. One member of the group even took part in the Cyrenians marathon relay team. The day included a barbeque and homemade soup for lunch and the team even managed to fit in a few games of football. The day ended with RBS presenting the Cyrenians Farm with a donation cheque for £4,000 and the team were awarded certificates of thanks on behalf of Cyrenians.

The funds donated by both HBOS and RBS will be used to provide essential farm equipment and help towards the daily costs of running the farm. This will allow the Farm to continue to support the residents of the adjacent community in developing personal, social and life skills and working towards a healthier view of themselves and their future. More than 100 metres of native hedging trees have been planted to provide



wildlife habitats as well as shelter for productive areas such as the orchard. These were planted with the help of the teams from HBOS and RBS, and we have received very positive feedback from them after their day working on the farm. The team challenges on offer are not only an excellent team building event, but also a rare opportunity to contribute something of a positive, lasting, environmental and social benefit.

As an organic outfit, the Farm aims to strike a balance between food production, and the preservation of biodiversity. It has been a good summer for breeding song birds locally, and species nesting on or around the land have included Whitethroat, Linnets, Bullfinch, Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting, all of which have declined by more than 50% in the British Isles over the last 35 years.

The Farm is looking for new teams to continue the good work started by these recent groups. New challenges waiting to be completed include putting up a polytunnel, which the Farm hopes to use to cultivate bedding plants, the next stage of hedgerow planting or converting a caravan into a chicken house. If you would like to find out more about Team Challenges at the Farm, please contact Fiona on 0131 475 2435 or email [fiona@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:fiona@cyrenians.org.uk).

### **New Deal Placements**

This summer we've been lucky to have 2 community residents, Steven and Michael, on full time New Deal placements. They've worked really hard and continue a pattern of successful placements at the farm. There are opportunities for more young people to get involved through this scheme (ages 18-25), so please spread the word to those who may be looking for outdoor work experience.

We also have a committed group of volunteers; Ariana, who lives on site, and Ian and Richard, who each help out one day per week. There's always room for more people to get involved in this 'day volunteering' capacity. Cyrenians will meet travel expenses and provide lunch, and I can't think of a more worthwhile way to get some exercise, fresh air, and the odd laugh!

If you're interested, please contact [sean@cyrenians.org](mailto:sean@cyrenians.org).

### **Farm Produce**

2007 has been the first year of full crop of raspberries after 2000 canes were planted in December 2005 with financial assistance from the (then) Scottish Community Diet Project, and Ethicon. The fruit is of excellent quality, and Cyrenians are one of very few organic producers in the UK.

The newest addition to the Cyrenians Farm has been the fitting of a production kitchen, which was installed with a grant from the Garfield Weston foundation.

We want to give our customers the best variety of high quality produce, and the launch of a range of jams and chutneys all hand made from organic produce is in the offing. The first products to be available will be raspberry and strawberry jams which are delicious on your toast and also make great gifts!



For those who don't receive our goods at their office, the raspberries and other products are available at Balerno Farmers Market on the second Saturday of each month.

## "You Never Listen..."

\*Andrea's mother was at her wit's end when she called the Homeless Department at the Council. She was fed up with Andrea coming in at all hours and never letting her know where she was or what she was doing. She felt that Andrea didn't treat her with any respect and was treating the house like a hotel...

However, Andrea sees it differently; she's 17, she's working and giving her mum money for her keep... and she isn't a kid anymore. Anyway, whenever she does tell her mum what she's doing, all she gets is grief, so what's the point?

Andrea and her mum were put in touch with Amber and we have been working with them for the past month on rebuilding their relationship and ways of opening up communication. Andrea and her mum have been meeting with the mediator separately and have had one "face to face" meeting. It's not easy and tough things have been said on both parts, but they're coming back and keeping on trying.

It's still hard but they both acknowledge it is getting better all the time...

Working with Young People (14-21) in conflict with their parents?  
Want to make a referral?

**Call the Amber team on 0131 475 2493  
or email [amber@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:amber@cyrenians.org.uk)**

For anyone looking for a long term **residential volunteering** post, we have a number of opportunities available. Through Project Scotland, 16 – 25 year old volunteers can work and live at our city or farm communities, or work alongside the volunteers at our Good Food depot. Residential volunteers provide stability and support to the people we work with, helping them on their journey back into the wider community. Please see the Project Scotland website for full details and how to apply.  
**[www.projectscotland.co.uk](http://www.projectscotland.co.uk)**

## Amber Mediation

Amber is the Cyrenians mediation service. Staff work with young people and their families who are finding it difficult to live together. Mediation is a valuable tool in the prevention of homelessness. Through improving communication within families, the project aims to enable the young person to stay at home or move out in a planned and supported way. We also work with families to build their relationships and reduce conflict and misunderstanding.

Feedback from a recent **Conflict Resolution Workshop**, to Young Women working with Streetwork, included:

*"I learnt how to work on things instead of arguing"*

*"I learnt how to bring people together to chat things through"*

*"It helped me realise how another person can feel in conflict."*

**Parents** who have been working with Amber Mediation were invited to sit round the table at the Scottish Parliament with MSP's earlier this year.

The event, organised by Parenting Across Scotland, was an opportunity for parents and politicians to come together to share their experiences of what it means to be a parent and some of the highs and lows of living with teenagers.

\*James' Mum said that: "Without Amber and our Social Worker, I don't know if the family would have been able to stay together, things were getting that bad."

\*Names have been changed.



## Edinburgh Refugee Centre

Edinburgh Refugee Centre is always keen to promote increased awareness of refugee and asylum issues in Edinburgh. But because there are small numbers of asylum seekers in Edinburgh – approximately 65, compared with 5000 in Glasgow – few agencies have been able to justify an investment in training in this area. There are more significant numbers of recognised refugees in Edinburgh, but this number is still small when compared with Glasgow. Unfortunately, this means that when refugees and asylum seekers do come into contact with mainstream services, they do not always receive advice which corresponds to their entitlements.

In order to address this, the Refugee Centre hosted an Information and Advice Session in June, as part of Refugee Week 2007. Basic issues – such as terminology and different kinds of immigration status – were covered, along with an explanation of the asylum system and a run-down of rights and entitlements. The message of the day was: “don’t try to give advice on your own if you’re not sure what someone’s entitled to. If in doubt, contact SRC or the Refugee Centre and staff will be more than happy to help you.”

Edinburgh Refugee Centre 0131 226 1499  
or email [refugees@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:refugees@cyrenians.org.uk)



## How much do you know about the rights of refugees and asylum seekers?

### Are the following statements

### TRUE or FALSE?

- 1) A person who has applied for asylum in the UK is entitled to NHS treatment without charge, as long as their application (including appeals) is under consideration.
- 2) Refugees have to apply for a work permit before taking up employment.
- 3) Asylum seekers can receive financial support which is equivalent to 90% of Income Support levels.
- 4) No accommodation provision for asylum seekers is made in Edinburgh.
- 5) It's not possible for refugees to get accommodation in Edinburgh.
- 6) Asylum seekers are allowed to work.
- 7) Refugees can study full-time at college or university and are eligible for student loans and other bursaries.
- 8) Asylum seeking children are entitled to free statutory education between the ages of 5-16.
- 9) Refugees can't access welfare benefits until they've been in the UK for at least 1 year.

Answers below

- 1) TRUE 2) FALSE, refugees have an automatic right to work in the UK without the need for special permission
- 3) FALSE, asylum support is provided at 70% of current Income Support levels
- 4) TRUE 5) FALSE, refugees have the same rights to housing as a UK citizen and can apply to the Council or housing associations.
- 6) FALSE, anyone claiming asylum since July 2002 has not been able to apply for permission to work.
- 7) TRUE 8) TRUE 9) FALSE, as soon as an individual is granted refugee status, they can access social security entitlements as if they were a UK citizen.



*"Working at FareShare means that I still have my sobriety. It gets me out of the house and I can meet people. It means I am not alone. If it wasn't for working at the Good Food Depot I would probably still be drinking probably I would not be alive! Seeing the food going to people who really need it is fantastic. I've been in Hostels and seen people picking up an apple or an orange and having a drink of fruit juice. This is brilliant!"*

**Christmas** is a time to support those without a home, family or the means to enjoy the festivities. At Christmas, homeless people can feel particularly alone, and find it harder to manage drug / alcohol problems and depression.

*"I think Good Food is doing a fantastic job, not only by feeding the homeless but also by providing a working environment for a lot of vulnerable people. It gives us a chance to build and see if we can get our own confidence back so we can go into employment."*

This year our Good Food programme is launching a Christmas eCard appeal, giving you the opportunity to show that you / your company cares about homelessness and the local community.

*"I have found volunteering at Good Food to be a truly illuminating experience. I am amazed at the hundreds of people the project is able to provide for daily with healthy, nutritious food. It is shocking that in a first world country there are so many who face the challenge of enjoying this most basic need."*

For more information on how to get involved and how the scheme works, visit our website [www.cyrenians.org.uk/christmas](http://www.cyrenians.org.uk/christmas), email [admin@cyrenians.org.uk](mailto:admin@cyrenians.org.uk), or call Phil Reilly on 0131 475 2354.

Christmas eCards are paperless and environmentally friendly.

I would like to support the work of the Cyrenians by:

Making a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ by cheque (payable to Edinburgh Cyrenians) / debit/credit card (\*please delete as applicable)

Card Type: Mastercard • Visa • Maestro (Switch)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Number \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Number

(last 3 or 4 digits on reverse) \_\_\_\_\_

Make a monthly donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (we will send you further details on how to set up a standing order)

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel : \_\_\_\_\_ email : \_\_\_\_\_

#### Gift Aid

You may be able to increase the value of your donation by almost a third at no extra cost to you.

I am a UK taxpayer:  
I want Edinburgh Cyrenians to reclaim the tax on my donation

I am not a UK taxpayer



Cyrenians

Charity Number  
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