



LIVING HOPE - BELFAST

PROVIDING HELP AND HOPE



Living Hope Belfast

Project Proposal 2010 - XR55297



Established in November 2001 the **Living Hope Charity** is based in the Lower Shankill area of Belfast, the most deprived area in Northern Ireland with the lowest educational achievement and the highest juvenile crime rate. Teenage pregnancies and youth suicide are amongst the highest in Europe. The Living Hope exists to provide help and hope to people of all ages in this community.



Living Hope Charity - Providing Help and Hope

Living Hope Projects

Our different projects work with over 300 people a week providing opportunities, empowering people and helping the disadvantaged. In November 2007 we moved into our new purpose built complex called **Living Hope - Belfast**, the first new building in this community in 9 years. The Shankill Road was at the forefront of the troubles in Northern Ireland for 35 years, indeed the physical, mental and emotional scars can still be seen in the lives of many people. We work in a community full of hurting people who resort to alcohol or drugs for the answer.

In the midst of all this we at the Living Hope have sought to bring a little hope and encouragement to people through our work. Our aims include:-

1. We want to empower people of all ages to make positive choices that will influence their lives for the better.
2. We want to promote a better quality of life for those we feel are disadvantaged through geographical location and poverty.
3. We want to provide opportunities for those we work with to release their potential and discover interests which will have a positive impact on their own lives and communities.

Men's & Ladies Work



Our **Men's and Ladies** work provides a place where men and women can meet together, go on trips, weekends away, make new friends and find support in times of difficulty.



Senior Citizens

Age is no barrier to anything at Living Hope as we try to provide relevant activities and programmes for people of all ages. Our **Oasis Lunch Club** is for those people aged over 60 who meet together for lunch and company. Over 50 attend and get the opportunity to go on outings and enjoy various activities throughout the year. There is also a weekly **Bowling Club** for people to get involved with.



Social Concern

Our **Social Concern** project meets the needs of local people in a practical way by responding to many needs such as requests for furniture, clothes and food. In January 2010 we purchased a storage container that will enable us to build up a good stock of items that we can use to help people.

Christmas Project

In 2009 we raised over £3,000 to distribute over 150 presents to local children as well as providing 28 hamper or gifts to local families and individuals, we also organised 5 Christmas Dinners and Parties for people of all ages.





Children's and Youth Work

Currently we are working with 200 children and young people a week through 6 different weekly activities including a Children's Club, After Schools Clubs, Youth

Work and a Mother and Toddler Group.

Every year we run 4 residential holidays for

the children we work with - these include 2 outdoor pursuit weekends and a fun camp for 50 children in October. We believe that every child is special and valuable and has a place in this world and a purpose in their life to become everything they can be. We believe in empowering them to make good choices that mean they don't have to be influenced and affected by all that goes on around them.

Each summer we run two weeks of summer play schemes for 110 children entirely funded by the local council,



they get to participate in different sports and crafts and go on trips. We make everything we do incentive based so the children know there is a reward for attendance and good behaviour and we have found that this approach works.



Our After Schools Club runs once a week at the moment on a Tuesday afternoon from 2.00-4.00 pm, we provide a wide range of games and crafts for 50 local children with local parents working as volunteers.

Our Youth Project works with 40 teenagers on a weekly basis. There is an alarming rise in youth suicide in our area and we feel compelled



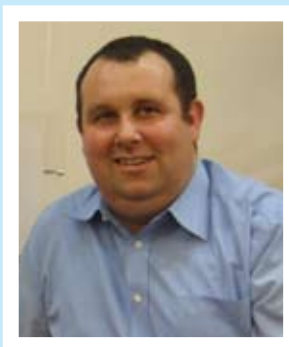
to meet this challenge by providing a safe environment with a listening ear to those young people with issues they are struggling with. Our Youth Project gives them an opportunity to go away on holiday together, get involved in drama, volunteering on other projects within the charity.

Our Thursday night Children's Club is not for the faint hearted with one hour of fun, singing, messy games, and prizes, we have 140 children attending every week. We also run a Mother and Toddler Group which caters for pre-school children and carers, there is a wide range of excellent play equipment in a safe environment for little explorers.



Annual Report

In 2009 as well as our weekly activities we ran 4 camps for local children and young people in March, May, October and November, we also ran a men's weekend away for over 40 men in June. Our two weeks of summer play schemes in July were attended by over 120 children. Five of our young people were involved in a cross border creative arts project in the Republic of Ireland in August.



The weekly drop in centre has become a fortnightly family fun night for people of all ages - for those looking for some activity and company. The Social Concern Department was able to purchase a storage container which will now be filled with items that will help people in a practical way. We have 6 camps arranged for this year, in March and May for children and young people to go to Kilcronaghan House in Tobermore, in July to a youth event in England, in August to the creative arts camp in the Republic of Ireland and in October and November to Seaview House in Kilkeel for over 100 children and young people. There is also a men's weekend arranged for June for 40 men.

We are now running 11 different projects on a weekly or monthly basis and our target is to raise £40,000 this year. All our overheads, administration costs and salaries are covered by Living Hope Belfast which means **every penny we raise goes directly into the project applied for.**



MATTHEW DAVIS
Project Worker

Living Hope Accounts (1.1.09 - 31.12.09)

Bank Balance at 1.1.09 **£193.93**

Income

Grants from Trusts	£31200.00
Donations from Companies	£4200.00
Statutory Funding	£4600.00
Fundraising	£2381.00
Charges for Camps & Trips	£3678.00

TOTAL **£46059.00**

Expenditure

Camps	£15830.99
Trips	£3540.21
Bus, Coach & Van Hire	£3040.00
Petrol	£3644.08
New Equipment	£2978.39
Sweets & Chocolate	£1383.56
Food	£1790.60
New Electrical & Computer equipment	£3181.91
Volunteer Expenses	£495.00
Bank Charges	£88.73
Hire Equipment	£320.00
Prizes	£1334.94
Mini Bus Upkeep & Repairs	£1169.23
Christmas Presents	£2708.37
Resources	£2397.34
Stationary	£184.21
Returned Loans	£1744.00

TOTAL **£45831.56**

