

All the latest news from St Basils; the largest charity in the West Midlands helping young people find and keep a home.

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# St Basils



Working to prevent youth homelessness

*Thank you for all your support in 2011!*

*We wish you a very Merry Christmas & a wonderful New Year!*



## Local artist to host 'What is Art?' event to raise funds for St Basils

West Bromwich artist Kartar Uppal will be hosting an evening discussion at 7pm on Friday 13th January 2012 at St Basils



## 350 supporters took part in St Basils BIG SleepOut to help prevent youth homelessness

On Friday 2nd December 2011, St Basils held its annual sponsored "BIG SleepOut" challenge. Over 350



## Win a luxury Harvey Nichols hamper and help St Basils

We are giving St Basils supporters the chance to win a luxury hamper from Harvey

Headquarters in Heath Mill Lane on the question 'What is Art?'. Led by a panel of local experts, the evening will look at and debate the question what makes something art? Why is it Art? And where is Art going? Kartar Uppal will be joined in the discussion by Gavin Wade, Director of the Eastside Project, Tyler Cann, Curator at the Ikon Gallery and local artist Cathy Wade. There will be a Question & Answer session and a chance for the audience to express their own opinions towards the end of the evening. There will be an entry fee on the door of a suggested £3 donation towards the work of St Basils. Drinks will be available to purchase before and after the event. [Read More.](#)

St Basils supporters, bedded down to sleep for the night in the carpark and street next to St Basils' headquarters in Digbeth, in just a cardboard box and some plastic sheeting. Once again this event was helped made possible by sponsors Jaffabox who donated tonnes of cardboard for attendees to build their shelter for the night.

This year's event was generously supported by the local Corporate community and staff from BIG SleepOut sponsors Harvey Nichols in Birmingham not only provided all the food and staffed the canteen for the night, but five staff also took part in the challenge itself.

The evening has already raised over £41,000, smashing last year's grand total of £35,000, with much more sponsorship still yet to come in. The money raised will help St Basils continue its crucial work preventing youth homelessness in Birmingham and North Worcestershire. [More info and photos.](#)



## St Basils Young People create Animations for THSH collaborative project

Nichols through a Silent Auction. This weekend hamper worth £85 is ideal for laid back and relaxed weekends, full of naughty indulgences including rum butter and stem ginger fudge, biscuits and nuts not forgetting specialist teas and coffee and two bottles of wine. All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is email [Anne Morton](#) specifying the amount you are bidding eg. £50.99p and your name, address, email and phone number. Please put St Basils Silent Auction in the subject line. Full contents of the hamper and Terms and Conditions can be found on our [website.](#)

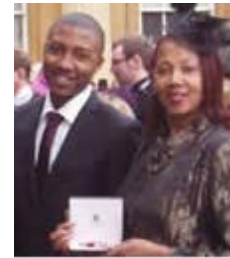


## Nottingham University Students donned costumes to help collect donations for St Basils

A team of students from the University of Nottingham's RAG organisation 'Karnival' dressed up as Fairies, Santa Clauses, Rudolf, Christmas trees and Elves and joined St Basils staff on 10th December in Birmingham's City Centre to collect donations from the general public. In total nearly £3000 was raised from the collection. Anne Morton, Fundraising Officer for St

St Basils young residents were recently given the opportunity to learn animation skills as part of a Community Outreach project organised by Town Hall Symphony Hall's (THSH) Education & Community department in partnership with local artists and with additional funding from GNC Trust and Birmingham City Councils' Arts Champions Scheme. The project inspired by Bluebeard's Castle was an intergenerational project based around the Philharmonia Orchestra's world premiere performance of their new version of Bartok's opera at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. The project brought together 3 young people's groups and 2 community groups who were challenged to create their own artistic responses to the different rooms of Bluebeard's castle.

Accompanied by the St Basils Learning, Skills and Work team, young people from St Basils went to see the opera on its opening night back in October and then worked with local filmmaking company Reel Access to produce their response. St Basils young people chose to do a combination of film and animation to represent the Torture Chamber and the Armour. They were also responsible for the overall animations for the doors presented on the DVD contents page which



## St Basils Manager describes MBE ceremony as Wonderful and Humbling

Jennifer Johnson, who has worked for St Basils for 19 years and currently manages Edmonds Court Foyer in Small Heath was invited to receive the MBE she was nominated for earlier this year for 'services to young people', at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 6th December 2011. Jennifer said of the experience; "It was a wonderful and humbling experience for me and my family to know that 'hard work and

Basils said: "We would like to thank the students as well as staff from St Basils for giving up their Saturday morning to help with this collection. We are also very grateful to the people of Birmingham for donating so generously to help local young homeless people this Christmas". [More photos.](#)



## Young resident visits school to thank them for Harvest Festival donations

Young residents at a St Basils supported accommodation project based in Aston, were the grateful recipients of a very generous food donation

brought together the artistic submissions from the other groups involved.

The young people from St Basils then explained the processes they had used at a presentation and screening event at Symphony Hall on 5th December 2011.

Gemma Ferati from St Basils Learning, Skills and Work team said: "The project was a huge success. The young people had a great time creating the animations and were thrilled with the finished DVD. They have all been awarded their Bronze Arts Award and have all shown an interest in getting involved in future projects. It was great to see the young people working together and supporting each other throughout the process". [Read More.](#)



## Filmmaker holds screening of film made with St Basils young residents

London based company Chocolate films held a screening of the short film they had made with St Basils young residents, at the Electric Cinema in Birmingham on 8th December 2011. The screening was attended by St Basils staff and

commitment' is recognised, even when you think that no-one is watching. I hope that my experience motivates others to realise that we are appreciated as Support staff at the highest levels and that being passionate about our work with young people at St Basils reaps reward in so many ways. It was a truly inspirational experience for my son and it bought a tear to my eye to hear him say "I'm proud of you mom!". [More photos.](#)



## Willmott Dixon teach young residents basic DIY skills

from a Harvest Festival assembly at St Mary's C of E Primary School in Handsworth Birmingham. Staff went along to St Mary's to give a special thank you to all of the children and staff on behalf of all the project's residents. One young resident accompanied staff to this assembly to say a personal thank you and shared a bit about the circumstances which led to him becoming homeless and accessing St Basils services. Candice Francis, Senior Worker at the project said; "His words were an encouragement and an inspiration to the children and to the staff. I was very proud to see him step out with such confidence in front of so many

young people and representatives from Birmingham based First Light who funded the project, after Chocolate Films and St Basils submitted a joint application. Richard Campbell from St Basils who instigated the project said: "After an initial workshop with First Light and Chocolate Films which our young people really enjoyed, myself and my colleague Martin Plant put some dates in place to make it happen and opened it up to all young people across St Basils Supported Accommodation schemes". Chocolate Films ran a week long programme with St Basils young people in September, which included a variety of workshops with opportunities for the young people to try out different techniques for themselves and incorporate their own ideas, before finally collaborating to write, film and produce their own short film. The final film described as a black comedy and entitled "Your Future Home" is a parody of an Estate Agent showing someone around their new home which was not all it seemed! Richard Campbell from St Basils added: "It was an amazing experience and very creative for our young people. We are looking to continue this after Christmas as there is funding left for one more workshop, giving our young people another opportunity to take part". One of the young people who both acted in and drafted much of the storyline for the film said: "It's only a 3 minute film so I knew the storyline

On 15th December 2011, Maintenance firm Willmott Dixon hosted a DIY Workshop at a St Basils supported accommodation project in Edgbaston. Eight young people attended the workshop which included basic skills such as tile cutting and tiling and changing washers on taps. This is the second workshop Willmott Dixon have organised for St Basils young residents with more planned for the New Year. The aim of the workshop was to teach the young residents basic maintenance to help them in the future when they have to maintain their own accommodation. One young man who attended the workshop said; "I think sessions like this are a great idea because there's nothing

people and also demonstrate his desire to see young people thrive and succeed". [Read More](#).

had to be simple. I really enjoyed the whole process from the script writing to the actual filming... we had lots of discussions around how to interpret the script into film and what's possible and not possible, yeah, filming is hard!...Actually it's great; I never thought I'd see myself on the big screen! [Read More](#).

else like this for young people, that just focuses on general maintainace and basic skills; it's been very useful". [Read More](#).

## About St Basils

St Basils has 27 accommodation projects across Birmingham and North Worcestershire, providing supported accommodation for young people aged 16 to 25. We have up to 400 flats or bedsits to meet various needs from emergency and fully supported accommodation on to semi-independent accommodation. In addition to this, around 4000 young people a year access our range of Support services which include prevention services; housing aid and advice; family mediation and mediators; peer educators; key workers, learning skills and work; advice and guidance on education employment and training; resettlement and floating support

You don't have to be homeless to ask for our help. If you are aged 16 to 25 and experiencing problems at school, college or at home, get in touch now. [Contact Us](#) or alternatively if you are living in Birmingham you can call our 'Youthline' 0300 30 30 099 to access our support helpline. For North Worcestershire referrals call 01527 872 157.

*For our archive of monthly e-newsletters or to sign-up please visit our website: [www.stbasils.org.uk/enewsletter](http://www.stbasils.org.uk/enewsletter)*

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