

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

Do you have a spare room?
We are in need of Hosts for our **new North Worcs Supported Lodgings** scheme. If you can **support a vulnerable young person** in a caring and secure environment, **we want to hear from you!**

**Tel: 01527 572054 Email: home2homenw@stbasils.org.uk
Web: www.stbasils.org.uk/home2home**



Another chance to 'SleepOut so young people don't have to'

If you missed the St Basils BIG SleepOut in December there are still chances to take part in a SleepOut which will raise money to help St Basils, or you could organise your own.

The Challenge Network are organising their own SleepOut which will be taking place in an outside area adjacent to the Custard Factory on Thursday 16th February from 7.30pm. About 70 teenagers aged 16-19 from Challenge network will be taking part in the sponsored



Take on the Malvern Hills in this year's walk challenge

The St Basils Annual Charity Walk Challenge is back! Now in its 14th year this is a must do event for anyone who likes a walk with a purpose. It is the perfect opportunity to see parts of the UK's countryside that you may never have walked before. Every year the walk takes place in a different part of the



NYRG young people complete interactive community awareness course

28 young people from NYRG have successfully completed the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) e-learning course 'The Role of The Community Representative'. This past year the National Youth Reference Group (NYRG) which St Basils co-ordinates has worked alongside

SleepOut but there is capacity for at least 150 to take part. Adam Husler from Challenge network who is organising the SleepOut hopes that other groups will join them.

[Read More.](#)



St Basils young people learn to make music with Start Again Project

Virtual Extreme Youth Media (VEX) have recently put together a film of the music project they did in partnership with Start Again Project and St Basils young people. The Music project was funded by Awards for All and was specifically for young people who were homeless or living in Supported Accommodation. The Young people involved in the music project were encouraged to create pieces of music which highlighted how they felt about their situation and then were shown how to record and edit the piece together. Start Again Project also arranged a series of talks from leading experts from the music industry to visit the young people and talk through the various different careers and roles available.

[Read More.](#)

country. Last year it was Barmouth, the year before it was the Cotswolds and this year the walk will be at the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire on **Saturday 9th June 2012.**

Teams from all over the UK representing businesses, groups and families sign up to experience this specially designed walk and help raise money in sponsorship to prevent youth homelessness. There are two circular walks on offer (26 miles and 13 miles) both starting and finishing from Great Malvern. The entry fee for each team is £125 and a team consists of between 3 to 6 people. For this you get a walk guide, an Ordnance Survey map section, a certificate and a badge of honour, plus, because it's sponsored by Kraft foods, lots of chocolate en route.

Taking part in the walk will mean you'll see a beautiful part of England, engage in some worthwhile exercise, network with like minded companies or make friends with fellow walkers and help raise money for a charity that has now been working to prevent youth homelessness for 40 years.

For more details and to download a Team Entry Form please visit www.stbasils.org.uk/walk and start planning your adventure today.

TPAS to give every member of NYRG the chance to complete the OCN accredited level two course as a thank you for all their hard work and dedication. Learners had two weeks to complete the intensive online course which aimed to provide a flexible approach for young people from all around the country. Learners worked through the course online by engaging in forum debates, quizzes, examining case studies and completing assignments.

[Read More.](#)



Donations needed for young women at St Basils emergency accommodation project

Harvest festival and Christmas may be over but donations of food (either fresh or long life), toiletries and towels amongst other items are always very much welcomed by our emergency accommodation projects. Young people who

Start Again Project are currently working in partnership with St Basils on a number of different projects. They have arranged for a Gym instructor to visit St Basils emergency accommodation project on a weekly basis. They also offer a variety of health and wellbeing sessions for young people.



Winners of Schools Sculpture Challenge announced

St Basils can now announce the winners of the Schools Sculpture challenge. The winners of the Junior/ Middle category are students from Simon De Montford Middle school in Evesham for their entry entitled 'Flying High', which received the most votes of any school. Whilst the winners of the Secondary school category are students from Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls for their entry



Willmott Dixon bring festive cheer to St Basils young people

Willmott Dixon Partnerships' North Birmingham branch bought some festive cheer to Young women and their children staying at St Basils Mother and Baby project Trentham House in Acocks Green and another St Basils supported accommodation scheme in Kings Norton.

With the support of the repairs and maintenance specialist's supplier Causeway, Willmott Dixon donated two Christmas trees and hand made decorations so the young people and their children could dress the trees. They also purchased, wrapped and delivered festive treats and Christmas presents to the young people living in the properties.

Shyeene Zaidibere, Willmott Dixon's North Birmingham customer and community officer, said: "We have been working with St Basils to equip local youngsters with basic DIY skills and have been impressed by their enthusiasm for learning, and

have contacted [Youthline](#) for help and have no where else to go can stay at emergency projects whilst staff look into more permanent options. Julia Brady, Manager of the St Basils emergency project for young women said; "Some of these girls are as young as 16 and increasingly they come to us with nothing but the clothes they're standing up in, they're often tired and anxious.. having a meal, a warm shower with shampoo or shower gel and then getting into a warm bed, really does make all the difference". [How you can help.](#)



Funky Concepts choose St Basils as their Charity of the Year

Marketing and promotional

entitled Cardboard Comfort which received the most votes of any school in the senior category. Pupils who made the artwork at the schools will now enjoy a free day trip to Cadbury World thanks to sponsors Kraft Foods.

St Basils does a lot of work with children of school age in both Birmingham and North Worcestershire through its Schools Mentoring and Training Project (STAMP). This project helps to raise awareness of the causes of youth homelessness and where young people in need of advice can get help.

St Basils has a number of artistic challenges and other events that schools can get involved in, throughout the year. Some local schools have recently organised their own sponsored SleepOuts or SleepIns and the month of September is St Basils Bake Off. St Basils will be celebrating its 40th anniversary year so St Basils will be encouraging schools to engage with the work they do by using their artistic skills in baking celebratory cakes. For more details go to www.stbasils.org.uk/bakeoff webpage. [See Photos.](#)

the way that they have welcomed us. This Christmas we were keen to give something back to the charity and the young people that they are working with, and help to spread a little festive cheer. However, it wouldn't have been possible to do this without the support of our local supplier Causeway, who helped us to purchase the Christmas trees."

[Full article.](#)



Local firms donate starter packs for young people

Just before Christmas, health care insurer BHSF and PricewaterhouseCoopers donated items for starter packs to help young people who are moving on from St Basils accommodation where furnishings are automatically provided, to their own accommodation where often they are not.

Staff from both firms compiled items such as pillow cases, pots and pans, towels, cutlery and mugs. Peter Maskell, chief executive of

distributions company Funky Concepts who are based in Stourbridge have chosen St Basils to be their "Charity of the Year" for 2012, for the work St Basils does with young people local to their Headquarters in the North Worcestershire area. Funky Concepts have offered to support a range of fundraising events which St Basils hosts throughout the year. They have already confirmed their involvement in the St Basils Bake Off in September.

Funky concepts will also be donating £500 worth of promotional branded items such as pens, magnets and notebooks.

Business Development Manager Shelley Jackson-Woodall said: "We are all really looking forward to working with St Basils this year. We were very impressed with the service that is provided and look forward to helping raise the profile of this valuable charity during the next twelve months. The team are looking forward to being active participants in fund raising activities; we are already buying our thermals in readiness for the Big SleepOut!".

[Read More.](#)

BHSF, said: “We have been involved with the work of St Basil’s for some time and support their fund-raising events throughout the year. There can be fewer more worthwhile accomplishments than helping less fortunate youngsters to make a new start in life.”

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

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