

EMBRACE Emergency Fund Appeal

People from other countries, including some who are seeking sanctuary here, are often not entitled to the emergency support that UK citizens receive. This means that in crisis situations such as illness or the sudden loss of a job, they will not receive welfare benefits to pay for basics such as food, accommodation or heating. People who are far from home cannot turn to family for support and friends may only be able to help for a short time. So, migrant people can quickly become homeless, penniless and forced to live on the street where they are subject to all sorts of dangers. Local homelessness charities that receive government support may not even be able to provide hostel beds to migrants who have no recourse to public funds.

EMBRACE seeks to stand in the gap of provision, reaching out in practical ways to support destitute people from other countries.

Through the 'on the street' project and the generous giving of local churches we supply homeless people with items such as warm clothes and sleeping bags, which helps them until work is found or they can return home.

There are times and circumstances, however, when we need to respond quickly in other ways to meet crisis needs. Our Emergency Fund can pay for short-term hostel accommodation or flights home for people who are in desperate need of shelter, possibly through prolonged periods of sleeping rough, illness or injury. This is only done when other avenues of help have been tried and when it is considered vital to the wellbeing, or survival of the destitute person. We always work through reputable groups such as homelessness or refugee charities.

In the past week we have responded to three requests for such help. In the past month 12 requests have come in; each reflecting a desperate and urgent need.

We do not wish to turn any person in need away, especially as we are often the last hope for help, and it would mean returning to life on the streets in extremely cold weather. However our funds are exhausted and we need your help to go on helping others.

We ask that you, or your church, consider making a donation to the EMBRACE Emergency Fund this Christmas. The fund is only used to support people in crisis situations and you could be saving their life.

If you would like any further information on this appeal please contact our office on 0796 9921 328 or email info@embraceni.org

Please make cheques payable to EMBRACE Emergency Fund and send to EMBRACE NI, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6AZ

To find out more about EMBRACE see our website, www.embraceni.org

Hostel accommodation costs approx £20 per night
Transport to places where family/friends can provide care costs from £30

Thank you

Denise Wright
Chairperson

EMBRACE NI
Building a Welcoming Community
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