

Quiet Samaritans

'A few weeks ago I got into a conversation with a homeless man I would regularly meet. When asking him how the general public treated him, he said that often people would pass him by, but he often experiences great support from the students of Belfast.

This challenged my own prejudices as often when I think of young students I have an image of partying, without a care in the world. One of the things that struck me was that this support was not from a particular group actively trying to combat homelessness, it was from individuals simply wanting to give a small bit of support without wanting anything back, (e.g. passing on a cup of coffee or offering a meal). It was encouraging to hear of those quiet Samaritans who are supporting those in need, especially during the winter and approach to Christmas which is a particularly difficult time for people on the street.'

Ashleigh Hunter
EMBRACE on the Street Coordinator

For the past few years Ashleigh has been volunteering with the Welcome Organisation, a homeless charity based in Belfast whose services include a drop-in centre and night outreach.

Local charity, EMBRACE, is a group of Christians from different denominations, working together to promote a positive response to people seeking asylum, refugees, migrant workers and people from minority-ethnic backgrounds living in Northern Ireland.

For more information contact:

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For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25: 35-36