

CARITAS ANCHOR HOUSE

Working at the heart of homelessness in Newham

Bishop Alan writes: As President of Caritas Anchor House, our Diocesan homeless charity in Canning Town, I am proud of the way it is implementing important aspects of Catholic Social Teaching. Their Home and Hope Appeal, launched in 2011, aims to equip the charity with the means to respond to homelessness and its underlying causes in the local area, which is one of the most deprived boroughs in London. Five years on, the appeal is progressing well. In November 2014, construction started on new training facilities and 25 “move-on” flats, which will offer transitional self-sufficient accommodation for residents who need further support to move to fully independent living.

In 2015, Caritas Anchor House provided a home and support to 215 people affected by homelessness, unemployment, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health needs, domestic abuse and offending. In the same year, they received 400 referrals from statutory agencies. Despite the pressures caused by austerity and cuts, Caritas Anchor House continues to support those in need, and in 2015 was runner up for the third year running in the Social Champion category of the Charity Times Awards. Caritas Anchor House has also expanded its community services with Your Space, which provides isolated local residents with a safe place to meet and share their problems, and improve their sense of wellbeing. Caritas Anchor House runs the St Mark’s Community Centre in Beckton, which delivers services to local people, including a food bank and Deaf Club.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith, recently visited the charity. (Picture left with Chief Executive Keith Fernet,



Bishop Alan speaking at Caritas Anchor House’s World Homeless Day reception in the House of Lords”

staff and residents). He said, “It’s clear that Caritas Anchor House changes the lives of the people that live here. They re-stabilise each resident, and give them the start of a new life.” Caritas Anchor House is worthy of our support. It relies on donations, and every gift received will help to change someone’s life. If you would like more information, please visit www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk, or to arrange a visit to see for yourself, please call 0207 476 6062 or email appeal@caritasanchorhouse.org.uk.

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If you would like to make a donation, please make your cheque payable to “Caritas Anchor House” and post it to Freepost – Homeless, 81 Barking Road, London E16 4HB, or visit www.justgiving.com/anchorhouse/donate

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