



Welcome
Home!

Case Studies

Welcome Home is an initiative of
Torch Help Hub and Christian
Community Action Ministries (CCA)
in association with local churches
across Reading.

Journey to hope...

Welcome Home is an initiative of Torch Help Hub and Christian Community Action Ministries (CCA) in association with local churches across Reading. Our shared vision is to provide a welcome from the local church and Christian community to those newly arrived in a council property that has no flooring, white goods, furniture or curtains and who would otherwise struggle without support.

The project is motivated by the injustice encountered by so many single mothers left to rebuild their lives, often because they have fled domestic abuse, and they have arrived in a new town with no one to support them. We believe this is where Jesus would be. Offering a compassionate helping hand.

Through the holistic support they receive a welcome to help them set-up home and begin to recover their wellbeing as well as having someone journey with them through the myriads of decisions they have to make.

The Case Studies below that show pictures of transformed homes that illustrate wonderfully the physical impact our volunteers and partners can have through a few hours of hard work. But the real gift is unseen and often unnoticed....the gift of time, presence and listening, along with timely words of encouragement, acceptance and love. Gifts that can't be quantified, photographed or captured except in the spirit of the receiver. But like a well tended plant, with love, support and the right environment they will grow, thrive and make a fresh start.

The transformation of a person's environment has the potential to kick start their journey towards full restoration of body mind and soul, spurred on by a new sense of belief, dignity and self-worth. Fear, doubt and anxiety are replaced by a new hope that whispers;

Journey to hope...



Welcome Home!

When T and her young daughter, first connected with the Torch Parish Nursing service they had recently fled to the area as a result of domestic violence. They had no family, no friends, no social network. They were placed in a ground floor accommodation with no flooring, no curtains, no fridge, no bed. Understanding of the health, social and education systems was a considerable challenge. She was alone, stuck, exhausted and invisible.

In partnership with the council and school we were able to journey with T; registering with the GP and dentist, applying for financial support, providing support in parenting a child with special needs.

Through Torch and working with churches across Reading we were able to paint and furnish her home with curtains, bed, washing machine, carpets and flooring, provide support with fuel payments and provide age specific toys for her daughter.

Journeying and advocating with T has increased her confidence and self-esteem to the point that she now volunteers at a local charity shop. Both T and her daughter are starting to flourish and thrive. recently T reflected on her journey and said,

'I am beginning to become myself again and I now have hope'

This Welcome Home was made possible in collaboration with our partners

Referrer: RBC Brighter Futures for Children

Coordination and DIY: Torch

Personal Support: Torch Parish Nurse

Painting: Hillsong Church volunteers

Carpet fitting: Meadway Carpets

Furniture: private donations

Toys and soft furnishings: Torch and private donations

Funding: Torch, Berkshire Nurses Trust and Dispensary Trust, Acts 435

Journey to a real home...

Welcome Home!

S moved to Reading overnight with her family, when fleeing from a life threatening and abusive environment. She hurriedly packed a few items in a bag to survive the next 24 hours, leaving all other possessions behind.

S was gratefully housed in temporary accommodation enabling her family to be safe and secure. They did their best to make this home but with two growing boys, who needed space in a two bedroomed flat, meant that S had to make the living room her bedroom every night. They also faced significant challenges daily, such as blocked bath and sink, damp, peeling paint from the ceilings etc. but she never complained, always grateful.

Earlier this year she was awarded a three bedroomed permanent council accommodation which caused great excitement. However, there were no carpets, flooring, curtains, cooker etc. but it provided amazing space for them all to start afresh.

The morning after all the carpets had been fitted, she said to the family, **'We are home...at last!'**

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Coordination and DIY: Torch

Personal Support: Torch Parish Nurse

Carpets: private donation

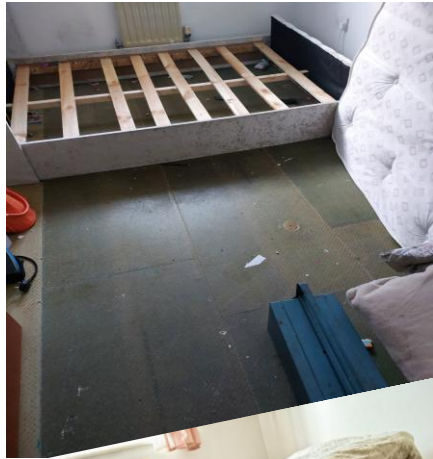
Carpet fitting: Meadway Carpets

Funding for carpets: Greyfriars Church

Funding for cooker: Tilehurst Poor Lands Charity



Journey to hope...



I moved to the Reading area from my hometown due to an emergency health scare.

Torch contacted me after they received a referral for support due to family breakdown. They were aware that we needed support with carpets as since moving home I was unable to afford flooring.

Two volunteers visited my home to measure up and made me feel at ease and organised for other team members to assist with dismantling furniture to vacate the rooms ready for the carpets.

Once the carpet was fitted, they also came back to reassemble the furniture which I found really helpful as I would have struggled to do it myself. They also arranged for two new beds for my children.

“I cannot thank the Torch Hub enough for all of their support, their holistic and non-judgmental approach is what is needed for anyone going through a tough time and need a little support.”

Anonymous

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Referrer: Wokingham Social Services

Coordination and DIY: Torch

Carpets: private donation

Carpet fitting: Meadway Carpets

Beds: Christian Community Action

Funding: Torch and Greyfriars Church

Welcome Home!