



**Marsha Phoenix
Memorial Trust
Annual Report
2009/10**





Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust Annual Report 2009/10

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Chair's Introduction

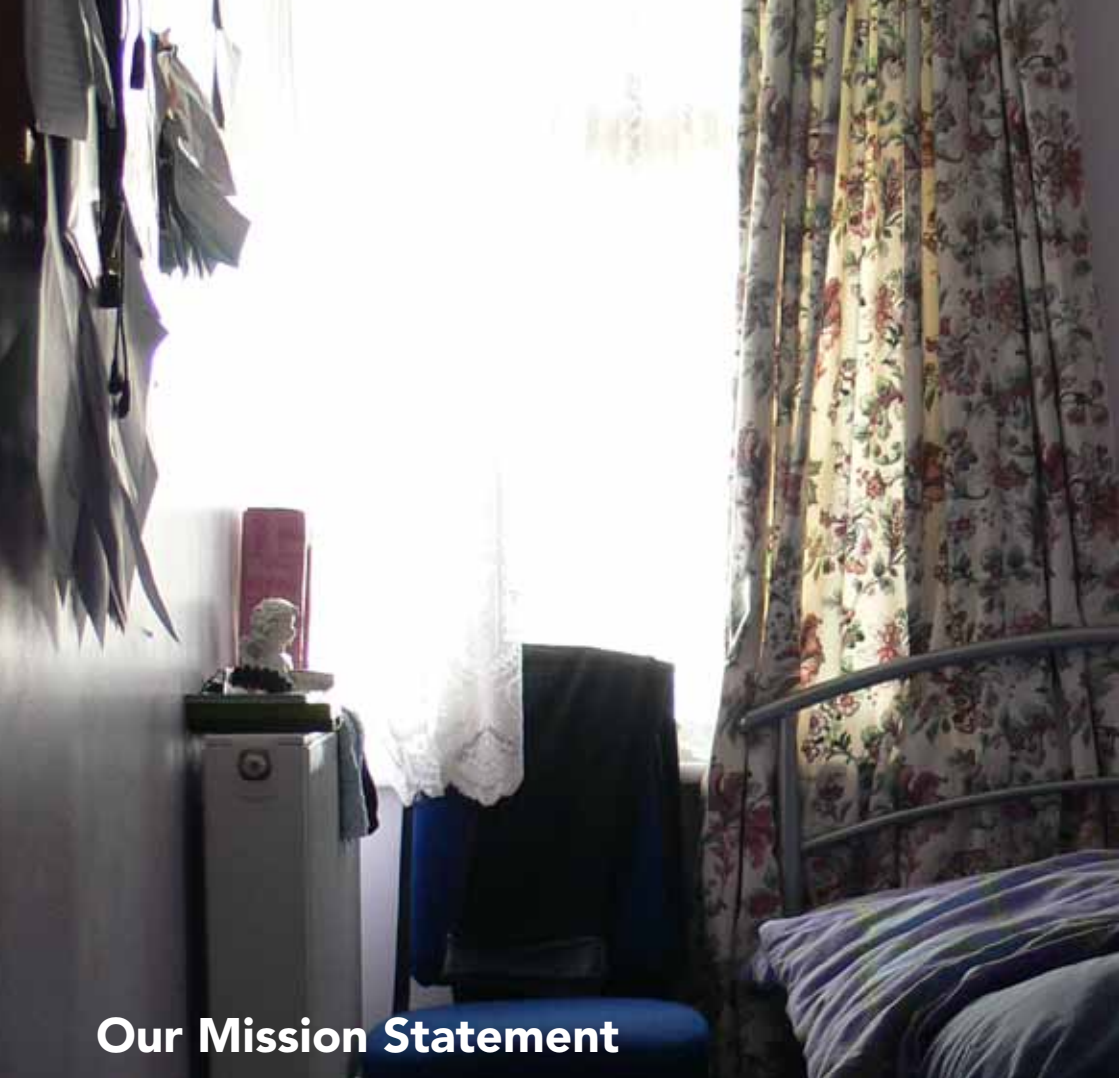
You know how it is. Every day you are reminded that our world is very far from perfect. There are so many gaps in provision for young people, old people, single parent families, low income families, single people (the list goes on) and every time you see something that needs fixing, you say "Someone should really do something about that." And when you eventually realise that probably nobody is going to, then you can get fed up and disgruntled, complain to everyone you know, maybe write a letter to the council and feel depressed about the way things are. And nothing will change. Or you could do something about it yourself.

That's why nobody who works in the voluntary sector needs to hear about the 'Big society' as if it has just been invented - it's how we live. It's what we do. It's what we've been doing for so long it sometimes feels like forever. Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust has been 'doing something about it' for over twenty five years, showing our residents that it is possible for them to change their own lives and make them better.

We are very grateful to all our funders, large and small, who support us in our work and continue to help us offer a home and an alternative.

Woodrow Phoenix

Chair, Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust



Our Mission Statement

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust will provide housing, support and care, with the aim of creating an environment that gives young women a secure base from which to develop self respect, independence and purpose in their lives.



Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is committed to equal opportunities in its provision of services, employment practices and management of the project.

As an organisation in a multi cultural and diverse area of the inner city, the Trust seeks to actively oppose all forms of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, colour, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, marital status, class and any situation where people are disadvantaged by conditions or requirements that cannot be shown to be justified. Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust declares that we are taking positive steps towards promoting equality and combatting all direct and indirect discrimination.



The Principles of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust

We will be responsible for a high quality service, developing our skills and knowledge to ensure professional standards are met.

We will respect our residents as individuals, safeguarding their rights and promoting awareness of their responsibilities. We will work with residents in a clear manner, to ensure accurate expectations about us are held and that there is an understanding of our expectations.

We will not be discriminatory or prejudiced in ourselves nor tolerate discrimination or prejudice in or against others. We will seek to recognise and accommodate differing needs and backgrounds in order to serve all in the best and most appropriate way.

We will empower our residents to participate in decision-making and to take responsibility for their own lives and future development.



We will seek to maintain a positive and helpful relationship with residents once they leave our service and this includes those who we may be unable to continue to house.

We will ensure professional responsibility takes precedence over personal interests in all our work. We will ensure we maintain confidentiality and that professional boundaries are in place.

We will ensure that outreach and promotion of our services within the wider community takes place both in the interests of individuals and to ensure any one who may benefit from it accesses our service.

We will monitor our services regularly to ensure we are operating both as a good employer and as an effective service provider.



Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust 2009/10

Patrons

His Excellency, The High Commissioner for
Guyana, Laleshwar Singh
Dr Edward Adams, MB, BS
Ms Leticea Holland
Dr Pauline Webb, AKC
Ms Thelma Lewis, MILSO, MBE
Baroness Stern of Vauxhall, BA, BSC, LLB
Mr George A Mayor
Ms Sally Hawkins
Yvonne Thompson, MBE
Mr Allan Hudson
Joan Ruddock, MP

Executive Committee

Chair Woodrow Phoenix
Vice Chair Councillor Alan Till
Treasurer Jenny Rutter
Company Secretary Sybil Phoenix
Minutes Secretary Patricia Rowe

Executive Committee Members

Dione Dennie
Reverend Corinne Tournay
Gurbakhsh Garcha
Barrie Anderson
Councillor Darren Johnson
Mewbourne Huntley
Denise Stanford
Jenny Berbeck
Derrick Martin
Co opted member
Patricia Cunningham 09.03.09

Others

*Liaison Officer, London Borough of
Lewisham Community Sector Team*
Alison Licorish
*Liaison Officer, London Borough of
Lewisham Supporting People Team*
Samantha Avril
*Liaison Officer, London and Quadrant
Housing Trust* Gemma Carmody



Staff Team

Director Rebecca Long

Project Manager Sybil Carey

Project Manager, Erlanger Rd Althea Gayle
(*Maternity cover from January 10 -*
Samantha King)

Project Worker & Health and Safety officer
Adebimpe Oputa

Project Worker & In-house Counsellor
Samantha King

Project Worker (from March 2010)
Lorraine Phoenix

Project Worker & In-house Counsellor
Dr Christine Hunt (Kirsten Firmin)

Project Worker Jackie Doyley
Night Waking Staff Elaine Reid / Pancheta
Seagal

Night Waking Staff Lorraine Phoenix /
Joy McCalman

Night Waking Staff Dorrett Russell

Night Waking Staff Donna Elliott

Education Project Coordinator Jona Thorpe
Cook Fiona Turnbull / Daisy Williams

(*cover*), Josephine Dadson (*from 29.03.10*)
Bookkeeper Sue Lockwood

Sessional & Sunday staff Veronica Roberts,
Dion Peters

Sessional Staff Pancheta Seagal, Leticia
Holland

Lewisham College & our own tutors

English Tutor Martha Mathews

IT Tutor Janice Charlton

Art Tutor Geraldine Walsh

Beauty Class Yvonne Bethune

Maths John Matthews

Volunteers

Gillian Lee, Donna Elliott

Contract cleaning by Adfen Contractors



Referral source	Number	%
Youth Aid	7	13.72
Lewisham SHIP	29	56.8
Lewisham College	3	5.88
Connexions	5	9.8
Alone in London	4	7.8
Marsha Phoenix	2	3.92
Memorial Trust internal		
Croydon College	1	1.96
2.Outcomes of Referrals		
Housed	25	43.10
Waiting list	22	37.93
Applicant refused	5	8.62
Marsha Phoenix	2	3.44
Memorial Trust refused		
Found alternative Housing	1	1.72
Agency withdrew	2	3.44
3.Reasons for Referral		
Family breakdown	9	16,6
General		
Relationship with; Mother	12	22.2
Father	1	1.85
Step parent	3	5.55
Evicted	2	3.73
Violence/ Abuse	17	31.48
Overcrowded	3	5.55
Other/transfers	5	9.43.
In care	1	1.85
Asylum seeker	1	1.85
4.Ethnicity		
Black Caribbean	19	30
Black African	9	24
Black British/ Other	4	14
White British	8	12
Mixed race	1	10
White other	1	2
Other/not known	5	10

Statistics



Treasurer's Report

The summarised financial statement included in this report is for the financial year ending March 2010. A summarised financial statement is included in this report. The statutory annual accounts were audited without qualification and approved by the Trustees. A copy of the accounts and auditors' report can be obtained by written request from the Trust.

I am pleased to submit the Audited Accounts of Hedley Dunk Ltd, Chartered Accountants and I recommend that the Trust retain their services.

Jenny Rutter
Treasurer



**Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is a
Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee**

Registered charity number 1063698
Registered company number 2552186

Bookkeeper Sue Lockwood

Auditor Hedley Dunk Chartered Accountants
Trinity House, 3 Bullace Lane, Dartford DA1 1BB

Bankers HSBC Bank
Deptford High St, London SE8 4RQ



Auditor's Statement to the Trustees of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust

We have examined the summarised financial statements set out in this Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 09.08.10.

Basis of Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with international Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices board. We carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Charity's affairs as at 31.03.10 and of its incoming resources and application of resources including its income and expenditure for the year. The summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended at 31.03.10.

Registered Auditors
Hedley Dunk
Trinity House
3 Bullace Lane, DA1 1BB
30.06.09

MARSHA PHOENIX MEMORIAL TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

	Note	Restricted funds 2010 £	Unrestricted funds 2010 £	Total funds 2010 £	Total funds 2009 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income	2	126,727	6,035	132,762	74,228
Investment income	3	-	1,489	1,489	6,812
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	-	400,273	400,273	387,481
Other incoming resources	6	-	207	207	1,386
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>126,727</u>	<u>408,004</u>	<u>534,731</u>	<u>469,907</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities	12	43,943	381,144	425,087	337,266
Governance costs	8	-	2,174	2,174	2,292
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	11	<u>43,943</u>	<u>383,318</u>	<u>427,261</u>	<u>339,558</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE REVALUATIONS		82,784	24,686	107,470	130,349
Gains and losses on revaluations of investment assets		-	324	324	200
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		82,784	25,010	107,794	130,549
Total funds at 1 April 2009		68,158	418,218	486,376	355,827
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2010		<u>150,942</u>	<u>443,228</u>	<u>594,170</u>	<u>486,376</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

MARSHA PHOENIX MEMORIAL TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 02552186

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2010**

	Note	£	2010 £	£	2009 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	15		405,813		156,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	10,008		58,948	
Investments	17	20,002		19,678	
Cash at bank and in hand		242,669		277,502	
		<u>272,679</u>		<u>356,128</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	18	(26,780)		(15,927)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>245,899</u>		<u>340,201</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>651,712</u>		<u>496,201</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	19		(57,542)		(9,825)
NET ASSETS			<u>594,170</u>		<u>486,376</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	20		150,942		68,158
Unrestricted funds	20		443,228		418,218
			<u>594,170</u>		<u>486,376</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 12 August 2010 and signed on their behalf, by:

.....
Woodrow Phoenix

The notes on pages 9 to 17 form part of these financial statements.



Director's Report

As our building works concluded last summer we looked forward to the next year consolidating the service in a much nicer environment;

We again take this opportunity to publicly thank our Funders; Futurebuilders, the City Bridge Trust, the Lee charity of William Hatcliffe and the Friends of Marsha Phoenix for helping us get ready to face the coming years with a modernised refurbished house.

No sooner had the final bit of carpet been laid then I was embroiled in writing our tender to join the "Framework Agreement" of supported housing providers in order that our key financial stream, the Supporting People grant can continue. Several months later we were informed we were successful in this and having been accepted on onto the Framework (one of the smallest providers on it we think). We now await the implications of this for our service as the Supporting People team systematically review service provision in the borough.

The year has certainly seen a shift in the profile of our residents with over 50% now falling into the under 18 age group. New process for funding them via social services are underway and we await to see how this might impact on our overall service. Support needs we meet have varied too and now we find ourselves ever more frequently working hard with partners in mental health, probation services and social services to ensure an appropriate support service is offered.

The staff team has worked hard all year and undergone some changes. We also thank Supporting People for responding to our need for less lone working to allow for additional night and weekend staff. This means the service has



improved and enabled us to offer our volunteers some paid work to enhance their experience. At the end of the financial year Sybil Carey reduced her hours to three days a week and Samantha King took over as part time Deputy Manager covering this role and Erlanger Road management during Althea Gayle's maternity leave.

Our commitment to training and developing our staff has continued with 51 training activities being undertaken between 17 staff during the year. We are now preparing the ground work to reapply for our Investors in People renewal. We also (as ever) thank Sybil Phoenix, the Friends group and all who supported their events throughout the year which in turn has helped us run the service. I was proud to accompany Sybil to 10 Downing St to receive the Times newspaper Sternberg award for outstanding contribution to the community by an older person and was glad to see her efforts continue to be recognised by a wider audience.

Resident satisfaction with the service in general is still high, and this year we particularly noticed satisfaction with the physical environment has increased; a tribute to all last year's hard work. .

Year 2 of our new business plan commenced in April 2010. Progress towards our goals has been good, with all of our key objectives intact as we move towards the coming years, trying as ever to be independent and unique.

Rebecca Long
Director



Project Manager's Report

Life continues at Marsha Phoenix. Phew!! What a relief, the refurbishing work is complete apart from the painting of the steps. The work was done with all residents in situ. Everyone deserves a pat on the back for enduring such an upheaval and helping to bring it to such a smooth and rewarding end. Everyone now has their own bedroom. Existence alongside each other is less strained it is more like a very large family who get on a bit better because everyone has their own space.

We are still full all the time so there is never a dull moment.

The young women continue in their quest for a better life by attending their place of education or placement. We keep on imparting our knowledge and advice so that the young ones can make decisions about the path they want to travel.

Staff development remains a priority. My thanks to the staff for their continued commitment and support. Our Director is still fully grounded, keeping in the know and up to date to direct the organisation. Mrs Phoenix the head of the "Friends" fundraising group remains very active. The executive committee are as usual fully on board and supportive.

Sybil Carey
Project Manager



Second Stage Manager/Deputy Manager's Report

Wow what a year of changes for me and things within the house. Having now changed from the project worker to covering the 2nd stage managers post and sharing the main house with Sybil Carey as the Deputy Manager it's all been change, change, change as well as all go, go, go. It's been nonstop work. But the best part of it all, is that it's all been enjoyable working with the lovely team members we have here at MPMT that give a lot of help and support.

Erlanger Road: Since I have been covering Erlanger Road I have had nearly a complete turnover of residents, as they have moved on to their own properties. We have been on trips and the residents would like to take part in a residential weekend, where they would like to do a range of activities that some have not done before i.e. go karting, and abseiling.

The residents we have at the moment are all planning to continue with their full time courses in Sept'10. This will enable them to have a stronger future when they leave MPMT and begin their life in the working world.

With the new makeover kitchens and bathroom the house feels like it has a completely new feel. Just take a look at how modern they look now!!! The house is now moving with the times!

Tressillian Road: What a lot of new skills I am having to learn, dealing with pay roll and now supervising half the Tressillian Road team. This is adding to my new experiences. Dealing with situations at all different levels is very interesting and my counselling skills have helped me to deal with a lot of situations.

I will be starting a management training course in September 2010 and am really looking forward to developing my skills so that I am able to bring even more skills to MPMT.

This year for me has truly been amazing and to think I have now been here 11yrs and still love it, so that says a lot!!!

Samantha King
Second Stage Manager



Residents' Reports

I moved into Marsha Phoenix on 13.07.10 from the time I moved in I instantly knew this would be a safe haven for me. The staff were very warm and welcoming, the facilities provided were excellent. I lived at the home for 11 months and I can honestly say I have had so much joy, peace and happiness. Living at Marsha Phoenix was a great experience and I loved attending the art classes life skills classes and beauty classes. I'd encourage all the future residents to be patient, relax, learn, grow and enjoy. I can assure you it will be worthwhile. The light never goes out; the staff are always alert and aware 24/7.

Thank you Marsha Phoenix Trust for being who you are

LM, July 2010

The staff at Marsha Phoenix are very helpful so when I'm having difficulties I can just seek advice from them

Marsha Phoenix has a really good atmosphere



Various surveys 2009/10

Thank you very much for taking me in I have enjoyed my stay and all the staff have been helpful to me and I appreciate everything they have done. Love you all and gonna miss you.

I enjoyed my stay at Marsha Phoenix and appreciate the help I will keep visiting

MPMT has made me a stronger person and a more confident one... You have helped me see that it is important to forgive and forget loved ones as sometimes you will never get another chance and may regret that decision for the rest of your life. You have made realise my positive potential even though I don't always put it to good useSo thank you so much especially Kirsten the best key worker in the world.....
K, 2010

You've helped me a lot, I appreciate everything you have helped me through and for having so much patience with me
S, 2010



From **Sybil Phoenix**

Another busy year has flown past and again I reflect on all the events we have organised to help support the Trust. My objective has been to reduce the debt the Trust incurred over the building works so we can move forward.

At the Trust's AGM in November 2010 Mavis Stewart MBE spoke about the NHS and her experiences of working within it since 1954. We thank her both for providing an entertaining evening and for her long standing support of our work.

We were happy to have a "virtual speaker" at the Friends AGM 2009 in the form of Henry Chin, the young man whom we have supported through the "Guyana Connection" to carry out work with our groups there. His interesting report gave us insight into all that is going on to improve the lives of young people there. We fundraise for this at our annual concert at Methodist Central Hall and thank all the organisers for their support with this project each year, funding volunteers, computers and equipment for Guyana schools.

Our Christmas coffee morning took place in December and once again thanks go to Father Owen for organising the school carols and Mr Derek Johnson and the Mayor's office for their support of this event and of the annual party for the blind which follows it. As usual both events were a success and enjoyed by all.

At our Annual Dinner at Lewisham College this year we honoured Jenny Berbeck, a member of our Executive Committee, longstanding member of the Friends group and supporter of the Trust. Our guest speaker for the evening was Joan Ruddock MP and Father Owen gave the grace. Many friends paid tribute to Jenny during the evening and I can add to this by minuting here my heartfelt appreciation of her and all she stands for. The evening was enhanced by a performance by the newly formed Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust community choir, run by Brenda Rattray and Geraldine Walsh our art tutor, who also came up with the idea. The choir came about thanks to funding from the One Lewisham fund and we were delighted with the proficient way the choir performed after only a few weeks rehearsal. We thank Lewisham College and particularly Margaret Asemota as usual for hosting this event in the Phoenix restaurant. We take this opportunity to welcome Maxine Room as Principal of Lewisham College who is already proving to be a good supporter as well as agreeing to become a patron of the Friends group.

Joe Montgomery, CBE delivered our annual lecture at Goldsmiths College in May. The topic was "Hope, hype and opportunity at a time of recession" which presented some interesting thoughts about how organisations can work together in times of recession, to share and enrich each other resources. A lively debate also took place afterwards covering some of the issues raised! This lecture was hosted by Professor Simon McVeigh, the Deputy Warden of Goldsmiths College and chaired by Woodrow Phoenix.

Fundraising events have continued as usual with some extras thrown in: Baroness Howells of St David's both hosted our House of Lords tea in April 2010 and a fundraising lunch event during the summer. We thank her warmly for this support. We welcomed back our old friend Lady Susie Sainsbury to speak at the latter event and at the former our guest speaker was .Reverend Martin Turner of Methodist Central Hall.

We also enjoyed a fundraising dinner at the House of Lords hosted for us by our new friend Lord John Tomlinson who we warmly thank for making this event possible.

I thank of course all who support our events by buying tickets and making contributions. We were very grateful as usual this year to have had generous help from many sources. My birthday this year is an example of this and I am so grateful for all who came in spite of the rain to enjoy the day.

We look forward to continuing support for example at our fundraising concert at the Catford theatre in November 2010!

I really thank everyone for supporting us over the last year as our debts reduce and we work towards building a firm base for the future.



Health and Safety

Another amazing year has passed so time for a new report. Where can I start but to say thank you to Loraine who has been asked to join hands and work with me in this task and fulfilling this area of responsibility in managing health and safety. Thank you my partner and to all the team for your support.

A new way to conducting the alarm system checks have been put in place to enable all staff to be more proactive in the health and safety of our working environment and lives of the Marsha Phoenix girls. All staff can now understand the fire alarm system better which has reduced games played by some of our girls!

We were happy to get a four star rating from the London Borough of Lewisham Environmental safety team for our food safety standards, which considering this is not our main business is very satisfactory to us. Health and safety is discussed at every team meeting and every house meeting to keep it high on our agenda.

This has been a successful year for Health and safety and I would like to say keep the flag flying and thank you again.

Adebimpe Oputa
Health & Safety Representative and project worker



Project Worker's Report

I took up my post as project worker at Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust in March this year. As the newest member of the team, working at the hostel has been such a change for me as I used to work with elderly people. (A big change) but I am enjoying every minute of it. Yes the girls are challenging at times but the job would not be worth doing if they did not have problems and my role is to help them through. This is what makes the job worthwhile for me.

Loraine Phoenix
project worker



Project Worker's Report

Woahhhhh can't believe another year has flown by and it's Annual Report time again. When being asked to write a few words this time that makes you stop and reflect on the year gone by and all that has happened. This has been one busy year, every day completely different from the one before. No two challenges the same. Here at Tressillian Road we have seen quite a turnover in residents this year. Some moving on to second stage and others moving into their own properties. It's great when we hear from them that things are going well and they are moving on with their lives. Sometimes the girls experience new issues after moving on and still seem to find their way back here for a little (or a lot) of help and support. Either way it's still good to be in contact with them after they have moved on.

This past year has brought many challenges with it and all my skills as a psychologist and also as a project worker have been called upon at some point or another. The most rewarding part of the job is seeing the positive forward movement of each resident I have worked with, however small that movement it's a step in the right direction and something they can build on. For me too a wonderful learning experience as each resident brings something new to the



table. It has to be said here that this work has been achieved with the help and support from each member of the staff team that I work with.

Aside from the everyday challenges there is always an element of fun to be had here at Tressillian Road, whether it be a takeaway night and watching a DVD with the girls, having lengthy late night discussions on just about anything and everything, the occasional water fight in the garden on a hot day and shopping trips with a ressie. Our annual day trip this year was to Southend-on-Sea, where everyone had a great time, the weather wasn't great but didn't dampen anyone's spirits for enjoying themselves, and now looking forward to the House BBQ for the girls which we are hoping will take place over the August Bank Holiday, then it's the biggie, Christmas at MPMT which is always a fun time. Can't wait to see Santa again, but wow how he changes from year to year!

I can't believe I have worked here now for 7 ½ years, the time has just flown by, and am enjoying every day. So here's looking forward with a positive mind (not sure about the bod) to the next 7 ½ years (by which time I will be putting in a request for a stenna stair lift to assist me in my room checks).

Kirsten Firmin
Project Worker



from the Executive Committee

I have found working with the Marsha Phoenix Trust both rewarding and humbling. I am amazed at the attention the Trust gives to the young ladies needs that pass through their care.

I am inspired by Mrs Phoenix and have learnt a lot about determination and vision.

I am impressed with the team that work at the trust.

My personal memorable moment was at Christmas when I was asked to be Father Christmas. I saw first hand that these events, paid for by the tireless fund raising of Mrs Phoenix, the friends of Marsha Phoenix, Rebecca and the staff were needed and beneficial to the young ladies.

Derrick Martin
Managing Director
M & M OASIS Limited
Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust
Executive Committee Member since 2009



Education and Resettlement Reports

Resettlement

Resettlement has changed again this year, with two significant factors impacting on us. Resettlement has continued to be brisk with a 100% turnover of residents over the year

All in all we managed to move on 27 people, 4 less than last year, but still a full turnover, meaning we helped 54 plus over the year. In terms of move on we had 9 going to permanent housing and 13 to second stage projects. These included several to Erlanger Road from Tressillian Rd as we experienced a 100% turnover in residents at Erlanger Road too this year. 4 more from Tressillian Rd went to family and friends, and 1 to university.

We give our thanks to the London Borough of Lewisham for their continued help with re housing by the different departments involved, and especially Mal Henry at SHIP.

We thank London and Quadrant for the move on nominations for the Erlanger Rd residents they provide and are happy to report 2 young ladies benefitted from this opportunity over the year.

We did not have to ask anyone to leave either project during the year, in spite of some difficult situations. Also included in the 2nd stage move on list are 4 residents who left us because they became pregnant during the year. We thank Ekaya for helping us find suitable Mother and Baby hostel accommodation for them.

We calculated the average stay was about 50 weeks, across both projects which we feel reflects the average time it takes to settle a person and get them to a stage to be ready to move on.



Thanks to St Christopher's and One housing once again for helping with move on over the year and being great partners to work with. We also thank Josephine at One Housing for help with floating support. All this help is greatly appreciated by the Trust and by those we support.

This year we were lucky enough to receive a J Anthony Clarke Trust grant to target welfare and support needs for those who have been victims of abuse and violence. As many of our residents have experienced this type of situation and we find abuse can come in many forms, we have spent it widely to support young women whilst with us and after they have moved on to help to secure a successful future and put the past behind them.

Finally from last May we started to log contacts from ex-residents and over the year to the end of March we spoke to or saw 47 ex-residents; some from the recent past and some from many years ago. They contacted us for all sorts of reasons; to say thank you, to get help (especially with financial matters), to show children, to report on successes, to give Christmas presents. We were happy to continue to welcome them all and absorb them into the day to day service we provide.

Social Events, Education and Welfare

Funding from Supporting People this year meant the Education project continued with the coordinator Jona Thorpe in post and we could continue to provide a range of educational opportunities both for our residents and the wider community this year. The One Lewisham Fund enabled us to part fund our community choir project and art exhibition which showed off their talents at our annual dinner in the Phoenix Restaurant at Lewisham College. Thank you to all at Lewisham Arts Service for this funding. Thanks again for the private donation of Ben and Jane Goss and to David Mungall for their ongoing



monthly payments which contributed to our education works as usual this year. We thank Lewisham College for the tutors; English, Art and IT were the staples for much of the year and we supplemented this with our own Maths tutor, John Matthews who has been a popular addition this year.

Yvonne Bethune also joined us to run her beauty and presentation skills workshops which proved popular. Martha Matthews our English tutor ran some extra classes for us with five or so young women aimed at self-development and these were most successful, with the participants showcasing what they had learnt by poetry and performance at the end of the course in December. We continued with one to one mentoring sessions run by Esther Austin of www.emotionsintransit.co.uk, in order that some of her direction, motivation and guidance can be shared by some young women feeling a bit lost in terms of career development and direction.

Meanwhile our Education access fund has continued and we have supported a number of young women over the year with payments to cover rent, books and equipment. We thank HSBC, and Housing for Women for their sponsorship and also all others for donations to the Fund, as the climate becomes increasingly hard for students.

We thank the London Borough of Lewisham Community sector unit for their contribution to our education work as well as to our cook and food provision. This helps us ensure residents have a healthy diet, have a basis to go out into the world to college and school and also this finance helps us provide help with social and welfare activities for all the residents.

Our Christmas dinner was cooked by Mrs Phoenix, ably helped by the Friends of Marsha Phoenix. Our newest Executive Committee member, Derrick Martin made a memorable Father Christmas for which we warmly thank him. Our summer trip was to Southend for a change this year and all enjoyed a good day.

Rebecca Long



The Art Project: Project Exhibitions and Work

Art class - Mandalas

The art workshops created images inspired by Mandalas (a traditional image sometimes used to focus the mind). Often based on a circle, a square, symmetrical, with a centralised image. We used old CD's and customised classical images with topical themes. The girls also added their own interests with Manga inspired graphics from Daisy and projects of interest that related course work to the project themes e.g. Zeudi's 'Barrier' theme and Abigail's Shakespeare mandala.

We also worked on the theme 'Anatomy of a heart' using both anatomy and physiology & clichéd images of the heart giving both a foundation of drawing and a metaphorical source to the theme.



Choir project

The objective of the choir was to bring together the local community, residents of the home and Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust as an organisation in a creative venture, using culture and art to contribute to building positive relations in our local communities... and in doing so, to raise the profile of the work of the organisation and potentially to inspire funds for the ongoing life of the home.

My hope was for the project to materialize its potential to outlive a one-off venture and continue to embrace the local community and past and future residents in ongoing projects of this nature.

The project was well attended, we filled the garden studio beyond the project target numbers, and there was a keen interest in its continuation. One of the young women who attended all the workshops who has now left MPMT expressed an interest in keeping touch for any future choir projects.

Brenda Rattray the choir leader, volunteered herself for another choir project for Hilly fields summer fayre and we reconvened, involving the young women and the local community for an open workshop & big sing in Hilly fields.

There is always potential for this again ...as there seems to be a significant desire within the community to get together and sing.

The choir is a non auditioning choir; it allows those with singing skills to front and hold those of us who feel unable to sing but love being part of a collective voice.

Quotes...

'Great opportunity to sing, it is so much more than just learning to sing'

Overall Participants, art and choir :

Lathonia Marshall/Natonia Ennis/Shelley Goodwin/Kirsty White/Daisy Ward/
Zeudi Lasseko/Abigail Penn/Sabrina Rodney/Jade Murphy/Olivia Wood.



'Body patterns ... and matters of health'

We also have a series of Art workshops in October leading up to an exhibition for the Marsha Phoenix open day on the 4th November. The workshops will be based around the traditional Ayurvedic doshas that define body type. We will be exploring this theme through the Art workshop creating images in a way that allows us to both inform, and be creative with information. An alternative look at body weight, shape, health and beauty.

Alongside this theme we will also be using the Paisley/ mango motif, as a decorative image that parallels this journey from East to West but still maintains its original form even though customised, abstracted and re-named.

The workshops will be delivered by Veena Stephenson and myself. In addition to art, we have both studied areas of alternative health and we are keen to use these skills bringing art and health matters together.

Geraldine Walsh
Art Workshop



Feedback from Yvonne Bethune's beauty class (commenced Spring 2010.)

The beauty class is a place where all boundaries are broken in terms of knowledge in which you can expand your horizon. Yvonne is exceptionally remarkable. 5 stars!

L

I enjoyed and achieved caring for my nails and making them look good. I am very happy with how I made them look glamorous. Beauty lessons are very interesting and worth going to every week. Keep up the good work Yvonne.

Jade

Last week I came to the beauty class and I learnt how to dress on a day to day basis and for interviews. Today when I came back I was much happier in more girly clothes so it helped me a lot.

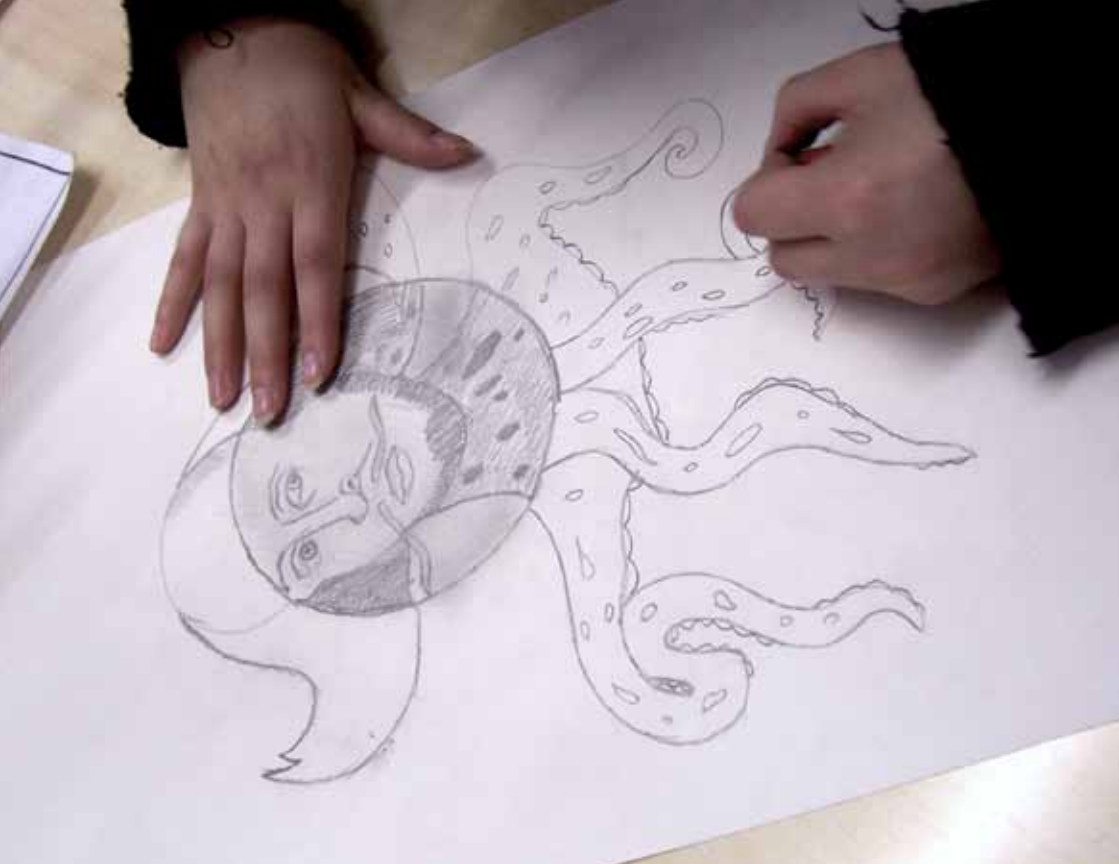
Najah

Last week I learnt to drink more water which is good for my skin and eating more fruits and vegetables in order for me to be healthier.

P

Last week was my first day at beauty class. I learnt a lot; On my face I used three products such as balancing cleanser, toner and day cream. That really gave me a completely new look.... I wrote down these products and came back today; I also learnt to drink more water and eat bananas. I have started buying bananas and already I am feeling more energy so I think it will work. Thanks Yvonne!

R



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