

Partnering with Green Pastures

The Good Book speaks to us as Christians about our practical service for Christ. Jesus said "I was in prison and you visited me, I was homeless and you housed me". Paul was "eager to help the poor" and John reminded us that "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?".

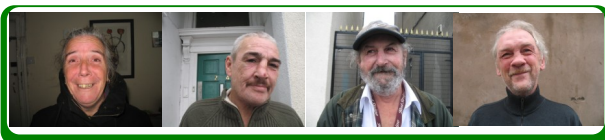


This challenged us here at Shoreline Church. We were on the threshold of the 21st Century and there were homeless people in our town. The Samaritan put his hand in his own pocket, paid the Inn Keeper and committed to paying all expenses until the man recovered. Pastor Pete had a small pension of £6,000 to purchase our first property. A friend from church, Vicki Woodley borrowed on her property & added £20,000. God did the rest. As you considering partnering with GP:

1. Be ready to make a loan to Green Pastures and look for lenders within your church.
2. Make contact with others looking to house the homeless in your area.
3. Build a team of highly committed volunteers that will provide pastoral care & conduct general maintenance.
4. Develop a good administration system.

Our Current Partners

Our partners are located throughout the northwest, northeast, midlands, south and Wales. For a full list of our current 20 partners please go to:
www.greenpastureshousing.co.uk/Blog.html



What a Partner does?

1. Researching and finding an appropriate property
2. Checking the accommodation is habitable and doesn't require significant work
3. Ensuring the tenants are ready to move into the house & filling 'empties' as soon as possible.
4. Preparing the property so that it can be lived in (e.g. helping the tenants find furniture)
5. Sustaining the tenancy – pastoral care, financial, maintenance

Our partners (members of the local churches and other Christian organisations) establish pastoral care and support teams of volunteers who help our tenants, according to their needs. Pastoral care teams assist with rehabilitation, family advice, claiming benefits, training, job creation and employment. Tenants are visited regularly, assisted with both social and spiritual needs, and so helped to get back on their feet.

How it all works

- GP raise capital for purchasing additional homes from individuals and churches who loan us money at 5% and equity in our existing properties.
- GP obtain mortgages to purchase the property. Rental income from Local Housing Allowance covers loan interest, bank mortgage & running costs.
- Our partners furnish the units with everything tenants need & sustain the tenancy.

As partners we serve each other. We believe in rejoicing and weeping with our partners over the lives of those we are housing.

How to become a Partner

Please contact Rory Paget-Wilkes (0770 2860305 or rory@greenpastureshousing.co.uk) for a Partner Document and Partner Application Form. If you are interested in partnering we will arrange to meet with you.

What Partners have said

"Last week we interviewed three people - one lives in a tent, another in a shed and the other has no shelter at all. It was a poignant and moving moment knowing that we were going to be able to house these three people. Green Pastures is helping us to fulfill our vision for eradicating homelessness here in Wakefield, and we see it as the culmination of our 9 years' work, helping the homeless. Last year we served 6,500 meals but we were not able to provide what people really need, their own home. We see ourselves as representing Green Pastures this side of the Pennines, and working with them is enhancing our own existing relationships with key agencies like the police and others."

Pastor Kevin Foster, New Life Christian Centre, Wakefield, West Yorkshire

"We are delighted to be partnering with Green Pastures. They are providing a radical yet simple solution to one of the greatest social problems in the UK. In Green Pastures we have found a rare combination of faith and business sense. Working in partnership with them will change the lives of the most vulnerable people in our society. We are excited at the prospect of a long-term partnership with Green Pastures that will change the lives of many desperate people. They are pioneers of faith where many have feared to tread."

Dave Smith, Director, Boaz Trust

"Green Pastures gives an advantage to those who are disadvantaged, and a hope to those in a hopeless situation. In a city where the local council discriminates and shows preference, the mission statement of Green Pastures allows us to show God's love to a needy people. It's an honour and privilege to partner with them."

Ernest Hibbert, Project Manager, Community Awareness Programme, Wakefield

Key to our success is the active partnership of growing numbers of churches around the country who empower our work and enable us to help more and more people, many of whom are socially invisible and would otherwise slip through the net.

"Defend the rights of the Poor" - What a challenge this is for the church of Jesus to house the homeless of our Nation! By the church working together, Christ is alive, and where the politicians fail, the Church can succeed.