



FOR THE HOMELESS

More than a Haven for the Homeless, it is Hope for the Brave

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No one should have to sleep on the streets. There is currently over 300,000 homeless people in London alone. Haven for the Homeless was founded in October 2019 with the aim of making the world a little bit better but getting people to help the homeless can be difficult due to the stigma surrounding homeless people, the most common being that it's their fault. In London, we feel removed from homelessness, with many people holding a 'that will never be me' view but with rough sleeping in Britain forecast to rise by 76% in the next decade, that is no longer the case.

While short term solutions, such as tents, hot meals and warm clothes make life on the streets a bit more bearable, we need to look at the future and focus on people's well-being and education before helping them find employment in order to be able to afford a home is the way forward. Everyone deserves a second chance. With these goals in mind, we raised £3,000 to sponsor a homeless person through the 3-month programme over at Buses4Homeless in Acton. This includes access to four buses: The **Bus 4 Shelter** provides 16 sleep pods for the guests; the **Bus 4 Dining** teaches guests to cook for themselves and others; the **Bus 4 Learning** teaches vocational skills in order to up-skill the guests and the **Bus 4 Wellness** provides holistic support and healing, helping instil confidence, support and love in their lives.

We also teamed up with RAaW London, a Film and Theatre Company based in Camden. The aim of working with the young people at RAaW was to tackle the stigma surrounding homelessness, starting with the next generation. To raise the £3000, we did a week of fundraising from the 7th – 14th December 2019. We began by completing a sponsored 7k night-time walk in London and to end it all, on Saturday 14th December, there was a live streamed TV show, produced entirely in-house, full of song, dance and spoken word performances by students and graduates from RAaW London. Throughout the night, there were also volunteers handing out bags of essentials and coats, as well as soup to homeless people in the surrounding area. We had a total of 65 amazing volunteers throughout the week who helped in various ways, from spreading awareness to donating or performing.

After supporting Buses4Homeless, we felt really inspired and therefore aim to create our own version of the life-changing buses in North London within the next few years once the success rates have been measured over in Acton. We are already speaking to local councils to secure land in North London for our project to take place.