



Next steps

Reacting to growing needs

An update from our CEO on the needs in Glasgow and how we are responding.

Unique needs

Tailored employability support at our Urban project is helping guests move forwards.

News and prayer

News from the Child and Family Centre, and prayer requests.

Reacting to growing needs

In the last issue of Connect, we shared about the rising numbers of people in Glasgow facing street homelessness. Here, we catch up with our CEO, Charles Maasz, for an update on the situation and how we are responding.

Glasgow City Council declared a housing emergency last November. What impact has this had on our work?

The impact has been profound and at times almost overwhelming. It was felt most keenly by our Overnight Welcome Centre (OWC) team during the winter. The team was met with an unprecedented number of people presenting as homeless. The OWC is a relatively small project, yet it consistently delivers well beyond any reasonable expectation.

Do we expect numbers of people at risk of rough sleeping to be high again this winter?

We find ourselves constantly adapting to a rapidly changing world and it feels as though, since 2020, we have not stopped having to be reactive. I do anticipate that high numbers of homeless presentations will continue to be a feature of the UK cityscape for the foreseeable future. The system is broken. The laws are great, but there is insufficient housing to support the laws, and so the system gets bogged down.

Are there any plans in place yet for this winter?

A recent night-time street count of people sleeping rough, carried out by Glasgow City Mission, Simon Community Scotland and other partners, found

nearly triple the number of people sleeping rough compared to last year, prompting questions about our plans for this winter.

We're advocating for positive action to ensure access to safe accommodation. Urgent attention needs to be paid to what service we offer this coming winter in order to ensure people at risk of rough sleeping have a safe, dignified and well managed space in which to spend the night.

Over the winter, we took the opportunity to invite key players within the housing and homelessness sector to visit the OWC. We wanted to demonstrate that the service we were running had not been designed for the volume of people we were met with, and to engage with us in conversation about what our service could look like next winter.

What are the other priorities for Glasgow City Mission in the coming months?

There is no shortage of priorities! We have had to contract expenditure by more than 10 per cent over the course of the past 12 months, which has been tough in the face of growing needs. We need to regroup and be ready to meet the ever-changing challenges – be it changes in the nature of addiction, poverty, the asylum system, people who are traumatised, and survivors of human trafficking.

We are redefining the ministry at our Child and Family Centre now that the Nursery is closing. We need to continue to develop the essential relationship-centred work done with individuals

and small groups at our city centre project – from which we are seeing tremendous results, as well as securing support for an improved OWC for the coming winter.

None of this can happen without prayer or a strong support and donor base, a dedicated and professional staff team, and an army of committed volunteers.

|| None of this can happen without prayer

Please pray

As Charles says, we need your prayers. Please pray for those who have no alternative just now but to sleep rough in Glasgow. And please pray for wisdom and resources as we plan ahead for this winter. For more prayer news, turn to page 6, and stay up to date with all our prayer news with our monthly prayer email. Contact us to be added to the prayer email list.



Unique needs

Everyone who is a part of our Urban project is different. We take time to know each guest and can provide tailored support for as long as it's required.

In many ways, it's back to basics in Urban, our 'moving on' space for guests who have passed the crisis point in their lives. Over the winter, the focus was on providing a safe space during the day for people who had used our Overnight Welcome Centre (OWC) the night before. This included advocacy support, encouraging people to sign up to our computer classes, and helping people navigate the asylum system.

Now, one of the biggest groups of people we are seeing at Urban is people who have recently received refugee status. Supporting this group includes supporting people to register for college courses and for benefits and help with navigating their new city and signposting to other services.

Activities we are running just now include the ever popular art class, a college-accredited computer class, and drop-in sessions where guests can have a coffee, play board games, use the computers or the gym, and chat with one another and volunteers.

Tailored support

We are able to work with each guest at their own pace – taking time to get to know each individual and their hopes and needs is important. Patrick, originally from Sierra Leone, arrived in Glasgow at the start of lockdown and was accommodated in a hotel in the city. He says, "A volunteer with the Mission phoned me every week to check on me. It helped me a lot, I missed my family."

Susan, our Project Worker who focuses on employability, helped Patrick apply

to study ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at College. He completed the course and is now taking the computer class we run at Urban. He says, "Fiona, [who is from Glasgow Clyde College and runs the class] really encourages people. She knows how to encourage you so you do it. The volunteers are helpful too – they sit beside you to help if you don't understand something."

Patrick says, "Susan took time to understand what I was saying and asked how I was feeling. It really matters. Any problem I have, I bring to Susan and she takes time to help find a solution for me. She always has time to help and I am really grateful."

Patrick has applied to College to learn how to be a barber.

Feeling at home

Ingrid, from El Salvador, has only been coming to Glasgow City Mission for two months and is already volunteering as a Guest Helper. Two days a week, she helps Denis our chef prepare lunch, and also talks with the guests.

When she can, she drops-in to Urban. She says, "I feel comfortable here because it has been working for people for a long time," Talking with guests is helping Ingrid improve her English, and she enjoys spending time in Urban, saying, "Susan asks about everything, 'are you ok?', 'are you well?'"

Volunteer

As with all our work, volunteers are an essential part of Urban. To find out more about volunteering, visit our website: www.glasgowcitymission.com/support-us/volunteer



> Fiona helping a guest during the computer class

News and prayer

> Family holiday club



Families at our Child and Family Centre enjoyed getting out and about over the Easter holidays. We took families on daytrips to places such as the Science Centre and soft play centres. We were able to invite all the families we work with on one of the trips.

One of the parents said, "Thanks for our trip to the Science Centre what a great time, the Holiday Club always helps us as a family to get through the school holidays."

Teenagers from our youth group enjoyed a trip to a Scripture Union centre at Gowanbank in Ayrshire where they tried activities such as a ropes course and archery. Feedback from the young people was that they really enjoyed it, but wished they could have stayed for longer!

> Fundraise for us

Zipslide down the Clyde on Friday 6 September and make a difference in the lives of people affected by homelessness and poverty! See the back page or visit the website for more.

Pray with us

- > Pray for the city centre team as they work with people who are street homeless. Pray for wisdom for staff and provision for guests.
- > Pray for guests who have been stuck in emergency accommodation for a long time and cannot make plans for the future.
- > Give thanks for people such as Patrick and Ingrid who are making the most of the services on offer at Urban. Pray for them in their studies and in their volunteering.
- > Pray for all the families affected by the closure of our Nursery. And pray for the team at the Child and Family Centre as they discern their role in Govan in the months ahead.
- > Pray for good partnership working as agencies from the public and third sectors plan ahead to ensure no one will need to sleep rough this winter.

More online

Stay up to date with our latest news and plans on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



www.glasgowcitymission.com



Respond

"I want to transform lives in Glasgow"

1 I'd like to set up a monthly donation

The sum of £10 £25 £50 Other £ _____ every month

On the 1st 15th of every month, starting in _____ MONTH _____

Account holder: _____

Account number: _____ Sort code: _____

Charities Aid Foundation processes donations on our behalf and will send you a Direct Debit Guarantee and advanced notice letter before your first donation.



I'd like to give a one off gift of £ _____

I enclose a cheque (payable to Glasgow City Mission) Or Please debit my card

Card No: _____ Expiry: _____ Start: _____

Security code (last 3 digits on the reverse of your card): _____

Please tick here if you do **not** require a receipt and please be assured of our thanks.

2 Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

I want to make my gift worth 25% more at no extra cost.

giftaid it

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

We'll not share your details with any third parties for the purposes of their marketing or phone you to ask for more money. We'd like to let you know the impact of your support but if you don't want to hear from Glasgow City Mission in the future, tick here

3 Please send me more information about:

volunteering booking someone to speak at my church/group

fundraising I want to receive prayer news by email

leaving a gift in my will

Email: _____

Completed forms can be posted to: 'Freepost, Glasgow City Mission'

Reg Charity SC001499

SUM24

Zipslide the Clyde!

Friday 6 September 2024

Starting at the Glasgow Riverside Museum

Support those affected by homelessness, poverty and addiction in Glasgow by launching off from a crane down a zip wire alongside the River Clyde!

For more information visit our website's events page, scan the QR code or phone us on 0141 221 2630.



0141 221 2630
info@glasgowcitymission.com
www.glasgowcitymission.com

Registered charity SC001499.
Registered office: 20 Crimea Street, Glasgow, G2 8PW.