

Donor News



NOVEMBER 2009, ISSUE 11

Welcome to the winter issue of Donor News. I hope you all enjoy this final update for 2009!

FIRST LOOK INSIDE ISSUE 11

- Official Scarlet Centre Launch
- Law student update
- Adidas 5K Challenge
- Festive events and requests
- Fabulous fundraisers and more...

DEMAND CHANGE! CAMPAIGN:

A SMALL STEP FOR EAVES, A GIANT LEAP FOR WOMANKIND

For most of 2009, Eaves and Object have been tirelessly campaigning to address the demand for prostitution and improve the lives of women involved in it, via the Demand Change! campaign.

Demand Change! was born out of the publication of the planned Policing and Crime Bill which contained Clause 14 - the offence of paying for sex with someone controlled for gain by a third party. The campaign countered the position of the pro-sex industry lobby, while continuing to highlight the need for enhanced services to help women exit prostitution.

On 2 November 2009, Demand Change! campaigners shared powerful testimonials from women in prostitution at a screening at the House of Lords and on 3 November, the Lords voted in favour of Clause 14! When implemented, this law will protect vulnerable people by making it an offence to buy sex from a person who has been coerced or forced.



Eaves' chief executive Denise Marshall said:

"This is fantastic news. Legislation to make it an offence to pay for sex with someone subject to force, who has been exploited is a no-brainer. It should clearly be illegal. I am delighted for the women whom we support, who have a right to live without fear of force, violence or exploitation, and for whom this law is crucial".

Testimony from "Angel", a survivor of prostitution

"I had to say I enjoyed it and that I chose it – it's what the johns want to hear, and as a prostitute I existed for their pleasure, my body and words were there for their pleasure. The real me was... mute."

Left: Demand Change! campaign protest outside Westminster.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

From your feedback, we know that you like to hear about all aspects of Eaves' work - including project news, funding updates, events and donor fundraising. Please continue to let us know your comments, ideas and suggestions by using the contact details below:

Victoria Samuel T: 020 7840 7132 or E: victoria.samuel@eaveshousing.co.uk or

Lortoria McDonald T: 020 7840 7105 or E: lortoria.mcdonald@eaveshousing.co.uk.

SCARLET CENTRE LAUNCHED!

Shadow Minister for Women Theresa May MP was welcomed to Eaves in September to officially launch the Scarlet Centre - Eaves' new support centre for women affected by violence.

Attended by more than 100 people, the event provided the opportunity to look around the new facilities and learn about the range of advice, counselling and resettlement services available.

"We are very proud of the Scarlet Centre," says Eaves Chief Executive Denise Marshall. "It provides a comprehensive support package under one roof, in a calm and relaxed space which is respectful to women and their experiences".

PILOT PROJECT UNVEILED FOR WOMEN WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

The problem of supporting women affected by domestic violence, who have no recourse to public funds (e.g. income support, housing or other benefits) is an ongoing one for the women's sector.

A woman on a spousal visa can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) if she is affected by domestic violence, however she may face barriers to this process such as fear, language difficulties, lack of social networks and a poor knowledge of immigration procedures. Funding restrictions will often mean she is also denied access to refuge provision.

Thankfully, Eaves has now secured funding to manage a four-month pilot project. The Sojourner Project will co-ordinate support, accommodation and subsistence for women and throughout the UK for a maximum of 8 weeks while ILR applications are submitted and processed.

Project Manager Jo Clarke says "This pilot will have huge implications for women with no recourse. We are delighted that finally, there is a service in place to assist these vulnerable women to escape violent situations and hope that longer term funding becomes available as a result."



Young Women's Worker Lorena Fuentes and Resettlement Worker Lydia Williams at the Scarlet Centre launch

RESEARCH LAUNCH: MEN'S DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION

Eaves has undertaken research into the men who pay for sex from trafficked and non-trafficked women. The research explores their awareness of coercion and violence against women in prostitution.

Please join us for the launch of the interim findings on:

**10 December, 10am –12pm at
Wilson Room, Portcullis House, London**

Speakers include: Denise Marshall, Dr Melissa Farley and Fiona Mactaggart MP.

RSVP: nisan.kesete@eaveshousing.co.uk

EAVES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Eaves POPPY Project has recently been cited in media articles questioning the true level of trafficking and subsequently, the level of Government funding for support services in the UK.

While it is impossible to give accurate figures, Eaves' daily experience shows trafficking to be a huge problem. More than 1,300 women have so far requested support from the POPPY Project and we hope funding continues to meet this obvious need.

ALL SHOPPED OUT

Christmas came early for over 200 people who bagged lots of wonderful bargains - from designer dresses, to leather shoes and bags - at a fundraising event for Eaves.

Liberty Bizarre was a huge success and raised £2,800 for Eaves - a fantastic result! Thank you to Euphame McDonald for managing the event with such enthusiasm and Sara Donaldson for her support.



Above: Organisers Sara Donaldson & Euphame McDonald

Eaves would also like to thank all the Liberty Bizarre sponsors including:

- The lovely people at White Stuff which donated a vast selection of gorgeous clothes which caused a near riot;
- Isabella Oliver which provided a fantastic selection of maternity wear and;
- Red Direct which donated all the wonderful leather bags.

Thanks too to:

- London College of Beauty Therapy which set up a post-shopping pamper station;
- Spirit Resourcing which kindly made a financial contribution to the event and;
- Individual supporters who donated clothes, or came along on the day.

YOUTH HUMANITY IN ACTION!

Teenagers often get bad press, but Eaves' experience of the young people involved with the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) has been very positive indeed!

YPI aims to develop the community leaders of the future by working with schools to give pupils an experience of philanthropy.

Pupils research the needs in their local community and identify the charity they believe is best placed to make a positive contribution. Pupils visit with and find out more about their chosen charity and later showcase their work to a panel of judges in the hope of winning £3,000 for the charity.

We are delighted that several groups have decided to support Eaves and have our fingers crossed for a positive outcome!

On a separate note, thanks to Year 8s from Parliament Hill School who chose to support Eaves in their recent charity week.

SPECIAL STUDENT UPDATE

In Donor News 10, we told you about two young women who needed help with their course fees in order to study Law at university.

Your response was fantastic and within a few days we had reached our target. We had been informed that the women would not have to pay foreign student rates, but at the last minute the university reversed this decision, meaning their combined tuition fees inflated to over £13,000.

However, we were able to raise the remainder of their fees thanks to The Schwab Westheimer Trust and other individuals.

Ngozi and Sarah were touched by your generosity and support and would like us to thank everyone who contributed towards their fees and books. Both women are really enjoying the course and university life.

Thank you.

ADIDAS WOMEN'S 5K CHALLENGE

Thirty wonderful women gave up their Sunday to take part in the Adidas Women's 5K Challenge on Sunday 6th September in Hyde Park.

All members of Team Eaves managed to complete the race in one piece raising £7,000 in aid of Eaves in the process!

Elaine Breckenridge (pictured right) was delighted with her result. "I made my goal with two seconds to spare in the end, and my final time was 29:58!"

Well done to Elaine and thank you to all those who ran, donated or cheered us on from the sidelines on the day!



CROYDON COMMUNITY AGAINST TRAFFICKING

A HUGE thanks to Lyanna Austin and members of Croydon Community Against Trafficking (CCAT) who generously donated 10 beautiful gift boxes to POPPY for Christmas. The donation was gratefully accepted by staff member Silva Hove, below.



MARINER'S BELLE WINNER

Congratulations to **Sarah Beasley** who won the weekend break in luxury apartment Mariner's Belle in St Ives, Cornwall.

Although all the other Team Eaves runners did exceptionally well, Sarah managed to stave off the competition raising £1,141 for Eaves.

Sarah said, "I am thrilled to have won the free weekend in Cornwall and pleased to have been able to raise such a lot of money thanks to my lovely, generous friends and business contacts."

Eaves would like to again thank Caroline Pace for generously donating the apartment to the cause! www.marinersbelle.co.uk/

SPORTING CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations and thank you to the following fundraisers!

- Faye Jordan who raised £700 in the BUPA Great North Run.
- The Carnwath Sisters who also took part in the Great North Run raising £2,000!
- Daniel Hayes who raised over £4,000 by running the Royal Parks Half Marathon!

Eaves is thrilled that so many of you are supporting Eaves via sporting and other challenges.

We do not have any charity places in the major runs at present, but hope to be allocated places in this year's ballot for either the Great North or Great South Runs.

We'll keep you posted but in the meantime, please do let us know if you are thinking about taking part in these races.

FUNDING REQUEST...

The POPPY Project is currently supporting a woman in need of your support. After escaping domestic violence in Sri Lanka, Ramesha* was trafficked into the UK to face eight years of exploitation and abuse in domestic servitude .

Ramesha has no grounds for asylum. However, she is keen to stay in the UK and find appropriate, non-exploitative domestic work so that she can continue to support her parents and children in Sri Lanka. Kalayaan (a charity seeking justice for migrant domestic workers) is helping Ramesha to find employment, but without a Domestic Worker Visa her future employment prospects are bleak.

Ramesha has no means of paying the £465 required for the visa. Without it, she will be unable to find the work needed to allow her to rebuild her life in the UK and will have to return to Sri Lanka where she may be at risk.

If you can provide any help, please contact Victoria. Thank you.

Donations can be made by credit card, online at http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/Support_Us/Donate.php, or by sending a cheque payable to Eaves Housing for Women to the address below.

* Ramesha is a pseudonym.

TOILETRY APPEAL

All of Eaves' projects are currently running low on the essential items needed for women on arrival and the new 'no recourse' project is adding to this need!

Can you or a group you are involved with organise a donation of specific items? New towels, toothpaste and toothbrushes, Tampax, shower gel and shampoo are all desperately needed.

Thank you for any support!

Eaves is a registered charity no. 275048.

Eaves, Unit 2.03, Canterbury Court, Kennington Park, 1-3 Brixton Road, London, SW9 6DE.
www.eaves4women.co.uk

TRAFALGAR SQUARE CAROLS!

For the second year running, the London City Singers will be carol singing in aid of Eaves at Trafalgar Square on 15 December at 8pm.

This women-only singing group has a unique barbershop sound and the event is not to be missed! If you are local to London, please show your support by coming along to hear them sing - and perhaps even joining in yourselves!

www.londoncitysingers.org.

SEASONAL GREETINGS CARDS ON SALE NOW



Eaves' festive greetings cards are now on sale. A pack of 10 Christmas cards with the bauble design (as shown) costs only £3.50 plus 60p p+p. The proceeds from each pack will directly benefit the vulnerable, excluded and exploited women and children supported in Eaves refuges.

Payments can be made by cheque or credit card by calling Victoria on 020 7840 7132.

CAN YOU SPARE A GIFT?

Times are tough for many people at present. However, if you do feel able to do something extra to support Eaves this year, please consider purchasing a small gift or a gift voucher for women in our domestic violence or POPPY refuges.

And if you can't, then please do the next best thing and spread the word among your friends and colleagues!

Thank you and enjoy the festive season!