



Global event  
local action

Please vote  
today

Autumn 2011

New Forest Nightstop provides emergency overnight accommodation for homeless 16 - 24 year olds in the homes of trained and approved households around the New Forest

## World Homelessness Day - make a difference now!

On the 10th of the 10th 2011 millions of people around the world will mark World Homeless Day in many varied ways and change the lives of homeless people in their local community.

We are highlighting World Homelessness Day as it is a global event encouraging local action.

We are asking that people vote, from the comfort of their homes, for New Forest Nightstop in the NatWest Community Force initiative which works with local communities to support the people, projects and charities making a real difference where we live.

**NatWest  
COMMUNITYFORCE**

**Vote for us on World  
Homelessness Day**

[http://communityforce.natwest.com/  
project/1103](http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/1103)

Winning £6000 would buy 300 nights of safety for homeless young people in the New Forest

July - September 2011

- 15 referrals / 6 stayed

- 30 Bednights taken

### Outcomes

- 1 found private accommodation

- 1 housed in Supported Accommodation

- 2 were housed in supported lodgings schemes

- 1 awaiting accommodation

## New Forest Nightstop Torchbearer Nomination

Our Olympic Torchbearer Nominee and former Nightstopper Katie Wanjiru Mindo will know if she has been given the honour of carrying the Olympic flame for part of the leg between Bournemouth and Southampton when the final decision is announced on 5th December 2011.

Katie's nomination for the 'Moment to Shine' campaign was put forward by Deacon Insurance, a sponsor of New Forest Nightstop, and she has successfully progressed through the first round.

The nomination will now be reviewed by one of 12 regional selection panels. They will be looking for 2,012 individuals with the most inspirational stories of personal achievement and/or contribution to the local community. If successful, Katie will be offered a place as one of the 8,000 Torchbearers needed in total for the Olympic Torch Relay.

In the meantime Katie is going to be spending 10 weeks in El Salvador where she will be a volunteer manager for a team of volunteers who will be working with the street children on a range of community projects.

During their time in El Salvador Katie and the team will setting up a number of local and sustainable initiatives including and drama groups and youth clubs. Due to the significant risks of working in that area Katie has undergone training for what to do in the event of being kidnapped.

Katie stayed with New Forest Nightstop 3 years ago and you can read her story on page 2. Katie also features in the new Nightstop DVD.

You can follow Katie's blog of her travels in El Salvador starting during October. Look out for it on our facebook page or website.



When a service takes someone off the streets, results show every £1 invested can reduce the burden on the tax payer by an average of £3.92.

## Katie's Story



My stay with Nightstop helped me by letting me have some time to think and reflect upon my life. To right my wrongs and see what help I needed to resolve my issues.

I have received a flat from a housing association thanks to all the support of Nightstop and been able to attend job interviews which I am waiting to hear back from.

I would like to say about Nightstop that my hostess and her family have been really great and helpful and caring and I am really grateful. Thank you so much Nightstop for everything you have done for me. I shall be forever grateful.

Katie came to New Forest Nightstop at 21. She had been homeless for a year after being rejected and abandoned by family. She had been trying to move about staying with people, spending her days in local libraries until they closed just to keep warm. She tried desperately to apply for work but with no home and rising depression she could not achieve it let alone sustain it.

She had no home, no food, no money and no family. She had nothing left of herself and after having suffered family rejection, homelessness, hunger, rape and extreme depression, everyday she would wake up believing it would be her last and a month before coming to Nightstop, she had attempted suicide by overdose.

BUT...Nightstop, in her own words, saved her life! She found a place of safety, acceptance and support. Through staying in New Forest Nightstop, a project run by local charity Community First New Forest, she learnt that she had value and didn't walk alone...

Three years on, Katie is now excelling in every aspect of her life. Her list of achievements is exceptional. She has completed all 3 of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, she has just received a promotion to Co-ordinator for Catch 22 youth service, received the Prime Minister's Award for National Civic Service, she has met with Tim Loughton, The Parliamentary Undersecretary for Children and Families and serves on his Young People's Advisory Board and through the National Citizens Service Award, she has been selected to travel to El Salvador this October to work for 10 weeks as a developer for youth groups in local communities.

The list goes on but Katie says, "The whole course of my life changed because of Nightstop. I didn't think I would live to my 22nd birthday but here I am, almost 25 and I wake up each day and can't believe how far I have come. Nightstop listened and cared. They saw the real me before I saw myself. They literally saved my life and I will do anything I can to pass that on to others, to show other young people that with someone there, believing in you, you can make through."

Nightstop is the last stop before the streets but with our Big Lottery funding running out in 2012 Nightstop needs to secure a future. If you can help in any way, whether through funding or fundraising, volunteering, promoting the service or you have skills and talents you want to invest please contact us by phone on 01425 478391 or email [nightstop@cfnf.org.uk](mailto:nightstop@cfnf.org.uk)

## New research shows youth homelessness has risen

Depaul UK, with whom New Forest Nightstop are affiliated, have contributed to a new report by the University of York and Heriot-Watt University called "Ending youth homelessness, possibilities, challenges and practical solutions."

The report, commissioned by Centrepoin, states that the number of young people experiencing homelessness each year in the UK has now risen from 75,000 in 2008 to 80,000.

To put this in perspective, if 80,000 young people experience homelessness each year in the UK, this means that...

- the young homeless population of the UK is the same size as the population of Jersey
- the young homeless of the UK could fill the London Olympic Stadium
- every hour 9 young people experience homeless in the UK: that's one every seven minutes

The report also details five broad objectives for local authorities and the government in ending youth homelessness. They are:

- No young person should sleep rough for more than one night once in contact with an appropriate statutory or voluntary sector agency.
- Young people should not have to stay in emergency accommodation for longer than an agreed specified period (for example, three months).
- Young people should not remain in transitional accommodation when it is appropriate for them to move onto more independent accommodation.
- All young people leaving an institutional setting (care, hospital, prison) should have a suitable housing destination, with relevant support, before discharge.
- All young people who cannot remain in the parental home should be offered suitable accommodation and support within a defined pathway plan to independence.

To view the full report visit: <http://goo.gl/UQARA>

## New Forest Nightstop Film - visit [newforestnightstop.org.uk](http://newforestnightstop.org.uk) to watch it now!



New Forest Nightstop has completed its film about homelessness within the New Forest aided by funds from the Big Lottery.

Many people are surprised to hear homelessness exists within the New Forest and through this medium Nightstop shares some of the facts and realities about homelessness on our doorsteps.

Filming has been shot around the New Forest and the film contains personal interviews with young people who share their experience of homelessness and how Nightstop got them through their crisis point. Street scenes have been played by 3 local youth actors and the film has been directed by Pete Doherty.

If you would like to watch the film you can find it on our website above.

## Nightstop at Totton College Fresher Fair



Every year New Forest Nightstop attends Totton College Fresher's Fair. This year we took along our famous bed sheet, full of public comments from the New Forest Show about people's ideas of what a bed means to them.

The students joined straight in, adding many of their own thoughts after we had suggested 'What if you had no bed to go home to tonight?' Many were genuinely moved by the thought, realising that it's something simple that they have never considered. 'I would just cry' said one student.

Nightstop often has young people stay, who are still in full-time education. In 2010 61% of young people who stayed in Nightstop were in full-time education. Nightstop offers security and protection, enabling them to continue with their studies at a crisis point in their lives.

## Tom & Tash - pedal power to raise funds for Nightstop



Tom Clowes and Natasha Carey from Deacon Insurance in Bournemouth recently undertook a 33 mile sponsored bike ride around Poole Harbour to raising £835.75 of much needed funds for New Forest Nightstop.

Setting off at 7.30 am, Tom and Tash made great time, finishing at 1.30pm back at Branksome despite their adventure of Tom losing his pedal in the middle of Wareham roundabout!

Natasha and Tom both want to say a massive and huge thank you to everyone who sponsored them and for all the kind messages of encouragement and support they received. Tom says, "I've never personally done anything like this before, both fundraising as well as a huge daunting bike ride, so for me it is a massive achievement".

## New Forest Show - Fantastic fundraising totals by Deacon and Nightstop



Final figures are in for funds raised through the efforts of Deacon and Nightstop at this year's New Forest Show. The total of £986.98 was gratefully received by Nightstop. This comprised of £578 through a Grand Raffle with prizes of an Amazon Kindle, Ipod Nano and £50 Love2Shop vouchers, all sourced by Deacon. £276 was raised through the sale of Nightstop wristbands and £132 from public donations buckets. Several people also signed up to give regular donations.

Penny Jepson, Head of Business at Deacon Insurance said: "We are very proud to be supporting Nightstop. Deacon specialises in providing insurance for those who are fortunate enough to have a roof over their heads and we understand the impact homelessness can have on a young person. Our team is very excited about helping Nightstop continue to provide a ray of hope to young people needing a safe bed and shelter for the night."

## Updates & News

- New Forest Nightstop has set up JustTextGiving and Virgin Money Giving accounts. Would you consider giving £20 for a night's accommodation or regularly donating? For £1 a month, you could support the work of Nightstop...Cheap as chocolate!
- Donations gratefully received are £500 from Ringwood School students SPUD day, £1000 RMDS summer production proceeds, £519 Deacon Staff survey and £121 Deacon raffle
- Penny Jepson, Head of Business at Deacon Insurance, will be raising money for New Forest Nightstop when she completes a 10km Marine Commando Challenge on 8th October. To sponsor Penny visit her virgin money giving page at <http://goo.gl/KIZML>
- Deacon Insurance are also sponsoring the ARMA (Association of Residential Management Agents) Annual Dinner on 4th October. They will be selling raffle tickets before the meal to raise more money for New Forest Nightstop.
- Nightstop volunteers will be getting together for an afternoon of noisy fun when they take part in a drumming workshop on Sunday 9th October.
- Our new dedicated website will go live in October. Look out for its opening via our facebook page. Visit the website at [www.newforestnightstop.org.uk](http://www.newforestnightstop.org.uk)
- Throughout October shoppers in the Ringwood branch of Waitrose will be able to cast a vote for Nightstop every time they buy something, thereby increasing our share of the £1000 fund. Deacon Insurance have submitted six applications to different stores on behalf of Nightstop so we are hoping to become one of the nominated charities of the month in other stores in the near future.

## Nightstop Ambassadors

The team of Nightstop Ambassadors are now equipped and available to go into our local communities and share the realities of homelessness and the work of Nightstop. They will also have the use of the new film.

Look out for us, we may be visiting local town events in the run up to Christmas.

If you are a group or company who would like to hear more about Nightstop and its work, joining us in changing young people's lives, please contact us and we can arrange a visit.

## Vote, Support or Donate ?



\* QR-Code to direct you straight to the NatWest CommunityForce profile page for New Forest Nightstop.

\* Just register and vote, every vote counts!!



\* QR-Code to direct you straight to the Virgin Money Giving page for New Forest Nightstop.

\* Perhaps you feel inspired to run your own fundraising activities? Link them to our VMG page to donate to Nightstop?



Follow us on  
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Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Helping homeless youth  
in the New Forest**

Text ABED41 £2 / £5 / £10 to 70070 to donate now eg ABED41 £5

## Support and contact

### Supported by:



**DEACON**

### Affiliated with:



YOUTH • COMMUNITY • OPPORTUNITY

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