

## Marjorie's Story



"I am 66 and I never thought I would be in a situation like this. I was living a comfortable life for the last 16 years and my companion and my best friend suddenly died! I was living in his home and my world fell apart. I was at a very low ebb, a real wreck. I was told days after him dying that I needed to vacate the house and had 6 months to find somewhere else - I had no idea what to do.

I went to the council offices, and they said that I could end up in a shared house, a hostel, and anywhere and I completely fell apart! It was then that a friend told me about Reach and I thought to myself, 'what have I got to lose!'

So I went into Reach that afternoon, it was very busy. It was very daunting and I felt very nervous. I received a very warm welcome and I was offered tea and biscuits. I waited ages to see someone and I finally saw a nice lady who was very helpful, compassionate and honest. I was very tearful, but along with her colleague, they began to point me in the right direction.

They got me registered on Homelink, this all took some time, but with continued support from Reach, like having help from a young lady who set me up with Homelink on my Kindle I regularly bid for houses and after 4 months I found somewhere to live! It is sheltered accommodation with Havebury in Bury St Edmunds.

I was looking at private renting, I went to every estate agent in Haverhill, but no one would touch me as I would be on housing benefit. I can remember Reach saying, 'if we can't help you find a "council" home we will personally help you get somewhere private' and this gave me faith to be patient.

I am a little excited if not a little bit scared as I have never lived on my own before. I have not allowed myself to really grieve yet, but I guess that will come!

This whole episode in my life has taught me not to take anything for granted as you never know what's round the corner. Without the support from Reach I don't know where I would be today, I felt that there was someone there for me, on my side if you get what I mean. I am just so thankful, really thankful, there are no words to say how grateful I am. I thought it was never going to end, but it's all happened so quickly. I keep shouting Wahoo!"

## Winner of the High Sheriff's Community Group Award goes to...



**WINNER  
COMMUNITY GROUP**



REACH COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We were thrilled to have Reach and Lesley shortlisted for the High Sheriff's Awards held at Snape Maltings on the 23rd March 2017.

Reach was selected for Group of the Year while Lesley was shortlisted for Volunteer of the Year.

It was so interesting and inspiring to see all the different charities; to hear about their work and how they make a difference to peoples lives, so to be awarded the High Sheriff's Community Group Award was an amazing and overwhelming experience. We couldn't be more pleased!

## Follow us on...



You can also keep up to date with the work - including project needs (Food, Starter Packs etc.) pictures, video updates, radio & TV interviews etc., on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube at [ReachHaverhill](#)

For more information about Reach visit our website, [www.reachhaverhill.org.uk](http://www.reachhaverhill.org.uk)

Reach Community Projects is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and works with Haverhill & District Churches Together

Registered Address: 8 Lime Grove Estate, Falconer Road, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7XU | Registered in England & Wales Charity No. 1169108



# Reach

## Community Projects

## News & Update - Spring 2017

## Welcome to the Award Winning



## New Look Reach!

## Tackling poverty in and around Haverhill

Reach Community Projects: 8 Lime Grove Estate, Falconer Road, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7XU  
Tel: 01440 712950 / 268003 | [www.reachhaverhill.org.uk](http://www.reachhaverhill.org.uk) | [info@reachhaverhill.org.uk](mailto:info@reachhaverhill.org.uk)

# Project Statistics

**Foodbank**  
from October 2008 to February 2017



**Starter Pack**  
from April 2012



**Reach Resource Centre**  
from January 2011



**Furniture**  
from 1st April to October 2016



**ACTS 435**  
Client Aid  
from 2014



**Reach Money Advice**  
from 2014



**Emergency Utility Fund**  
from December 2013 to March 2017



## The New Charity Launch On April 1st 2017

As of the 1st April 2017 Reach became a separate charity, and what better way to launch Reach than with afternoon tea at the Arts Centre in Haverhill. It was good to hear from Janet, one of Reach's early clients and the difference Reach has made to her life, including becoming debt free in March!

As Janet said to us; "It means I can get my hair done whenever I want now!"

Projects Director and founder Henry Wilson said; "It's been an amazing journey since we began 11½ years ago, we've fed over 10,000 people through the foodbank and assisted countless more with debt advice and furniture from the Resource Centre." (See left).

"Our aim is to lift people out of poverty and we are tirelessly looking at new ways in how we reach people especially those that can't get in to see us."

"We've had fantastic support and we have such a great team. We are so looking forward to the future! Exciting times ahead!"



We do not have firm figures to support how many clients we have helped through our CAP centre (2005 - 2014) but it is considered to be in excess of 270 debt clients, many of whom are now debt free.