

Share the Journey

A walk of witness and solidarity with Refugees and Asylum Seekers

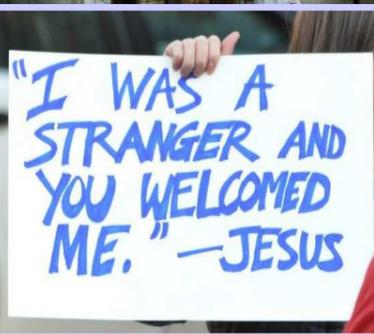


Saturday 28th April

Starting at Cannon Hill Park (outside the MAC) at 10am

Ending with a time of reflection in the city centre

FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME; I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK. I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME; NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME... MATTHEW 25: 35-36



Supported by:

For more details contact: info@carrslanelivedcommunity.org.uk

Contact us:
 Brushstrokes Community Project
 St Philips Parish Centre
 Watt Street (off Messenger Road)
 Smethwick, B66 3DA

Phone: 0121 565 2234
 E-mail: info@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk
 Website: www.brushstrokessandwell.org.uk

Brushstrokes receives support from:

Brushstrokes Messenger

Father Hudson's Care

April 2018

HAPPY EASTER

Easter is the time for all people to rejoice and be thankful for the gift of life. Brushstrokes wishes everyone a very happy and blessed Easter.

thank you

We would like to thank all the lovely people and organisations who donated Easter eggs to Brushstrokes so that we could give these out to children of the families we support. Thank you especially to the children and staff of Our Lady and St Hubert's Catholic Primary School, Oldbury, and also to Bearwood Action for Refugees and the Bristnall Labour Party for great support during our Easter Egg appeal.



Fatmire and Parveen stand beside some of the donated Easter eggs delivered by Brushstrokes Volunteer, Lucy.



Thank You!

Many thanks to Jessica Benton, for returning to Brushstrokes with

sweets and chocolates, having completed her university placement here in February. Jessica also left a lovely card in which she wrote:

'Thank you all so much for an incredible placement experience! I've learnt so much from everybody here and truly feel you've all helped me to grow as a professional and as a person. Thanks also for all that you do to help and empower the people of Birmingham and the Black Country. I hope to one day follow in your footsteps!'

We could not have wished for a more willing and pleasant student than Jessica and we wish her every success in the future. Pictured right are Jessica and Sally.



Asylum Guide Volunteers

Do you want to be part of a team that empowers asylum seekers to take control of their asylum journey?

What is the role?

Our clients are asylum seekers who have recently arrived in Sandwell, seeking safety after fleeing conflict and persecution in their country of origin. In order for asylum seekers to be granted protection, they need to understand the complex asylum system.

Brushstrokes is delivering this project in partnership with Refugee Action and will match up Asylum Guide volunteers with people and families claiming asylum in Sandwell. Meeting at key stages of the asylum process, they will offer guidance and information. The aim is to increase **legal literacy** – empowering people to navigate and better engage with the complex asylum system.

Do you have?

- A positive approach to working in a multi-cultural and multi-racial setting
- Basic IT skills
- A commitment to empowering other people and promoting independence
- Willingness to develop new knowledge and skills
- Other language skills are helpful but not essential
- Approx. 5 hours a month to meet your client/s

Brushstrokes will provide:

- In depth, specialist training on the asylum process (Provided by Refugee Action)
- Induction, and ongoing support / supervision
- Travel expenses and other incurred expenses relating to the role.

How do I apply?

To register your interest please contact: martin@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk; 0121 565 2234

For further role specific enquiries please contact: blanka@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk; 07572 762 233

An Asylum Guide TRAINING SESSION will be held on Friday the 11th of May at 9.30 am at SAFS, Windmill Community Centre, Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DX where further information about the role and the work of Brushstrokes and Refugee Action will be provided.

We Wish You Well!



With great sadness we say goodbye to two of Brushstrokes' most popular and hardworking members of staff: Loretta and Kathy.

Loretta Braha has worked here for over four years, admirably and cheerfully fulfilling the role of Monitoring Assistant as well as carrying out many other duties. We will greatly miss her bubbly personality and the positive attitude she applied to every task she faced. Loretta will now move on to work with the Refugee and Migrant Centre in Wolverhampton as an advisor and we wish her every success in her new position.

Blanka writes, *'I am so sorry to see you leave. I shall miss your smile, sensible, mature outlook on matters, positive attitude and our chats and laughs. You are small but mighty, a hidden gem in our office – humble which only adds to your greatness. However, I am very happy for you; you deserve every success and*

happiness – may all your expectations be met and more! Wishing you a fruitful future.'

Loretta says, 'I would like to thank everyone for all support and help during these years with Brushstrokes. It has been a privilege to work with many great team members and volunteers which I will truly cherish in many years to come. I have had the best time and worked with all my heart knowing that people got the help they needed and we were able to put a smile on their faces. I will truly miss everyone and can only hope for the best for everyone. Thank you and Goodbye!'

Kathy Fryatt has been the 'Cooking Champion' at Brushstrokes for the past twelve months and before that had been an administration volunteer here since January 2015. Her quiet, calm, hardworking and organised manner will be immensely missed by all at the Friday Community Café which has greatly benefited from her leadership. All staff, volunteers and service users wish Kathy every success in any new direction she now moves into.

Martin: *'Dear Kathy, it has been an absolute pleasure working with you. Have a good rest... you deserve it. Every best wish.'*

Nigel: *'Dear Kathy, it has been a great pleasure knowing you and working with you. We will miss you greatly.'*

Blanka: *'Dear Kathy, our community café won't be the same without you. Thank you for looking after all of us. All the very best.'*

Jane: *'Kathy, all the best. We'll miss you. Please keep in touch.'*



In light of our recent successful series of cooking demonstrations from around the world (and subsequent recipe book) Kathy, Brushstrokes' Cooking Champion, is baking up a new batch of sessions throughout April 2018.



1. Wednesday 11th April — Healthy Inexpensive Meals, delivered by Jennifer, 11am — 1pm.



2. Wednesday 18th April — Healthy Eating from Albania, delivered by Aida, 11am — 1pm.

Please contact Brushstrokes to book your free place at these excellent practical workshops: 0121 565 2234.