



Christmas can be the most difficult time of year for many families, and, with the knock-on effects of the pandemic, we already see that 2021 is likely to be a struggle for many more. So, with your help, BCM is aiming to once again deliver a Toy Appeal (no food).

Although (at the time of going to print) current restrictions have eased somewhat, the appeal will continue in the format adopted last year and we would ask you to bear with us as we work hard to enable it to happen safely.

**We will be taking deliveries of toys at  
Donegall Road Methodist Church in Belfast  
from Monday, 6th December until 13th December.  
This will be on a A STRICT PRE-BOOKED TIME SLOT basis for  
car loads, although individuals can be accommodated  
if dropping off a personal donation.**

Please note, there will be no access to BCM HQ in Glengall Street.

For further information please go to our website [www.belfastcentralmission.org](http://www.belfastcentralmission.org) or contact  
[lhenry@belfastcentralmission.org](mailto:lhenry@belfastcentralmission.org) or [jsewell@belfastcentralmission.org](mailto:jsewell@belfastcentralmission.org)

Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS EVE STREET COLLECTION

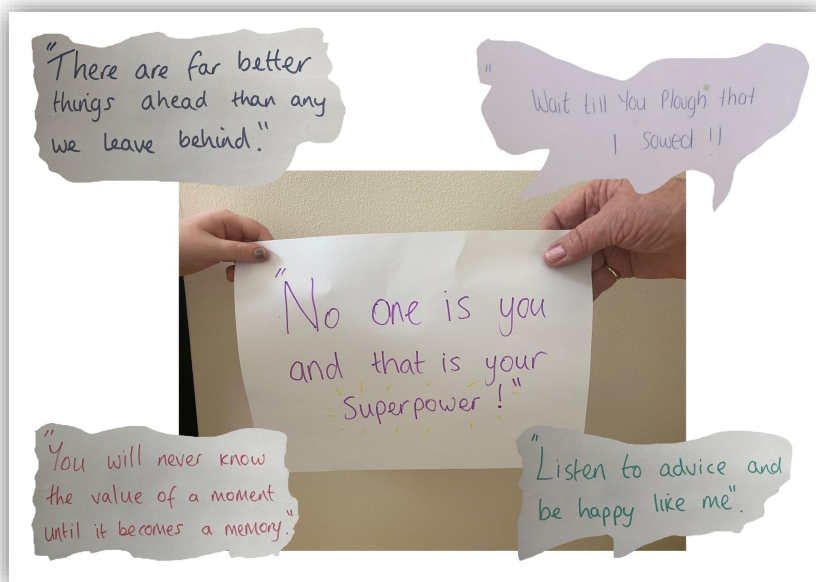
The BCM Board has taken the difficult decision to permanently cancel the annual Christmas Eve Street Collection. The effectiveness of the collections, and the number of volunteers able to participate in them, has been dwindling in recent years and the Board has been considering whether to continue with them for some time. Difficulties associated with Covid caused cancellation last year and the Board has decided not to reinstate it but to rather move on to something new. More about that will follow. In the meantime, the Board and the fundraising team would like to sincerely thank all those who have collected or organised collections on our behalf throughout the years.

# PROJECT NEWS

## INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES

We love this joint project to help alleviate anxiety felt by children and young people going back to school.

Spearheaded by both our Parent Support and Housing Support for Older People projects out of our Coalisland base, these inspirational messages were from the older people we provide housing support to across the Southern Trust area. They were shared with the school age children of our Parent Support families and helped to calm many nerves.



## HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

The residents of Copelands had a wonderful day during their first Harvest celebration since the opening of the building. They had been making harvest crafts all week, including fabric pumpkins and woven apples to decorate the communal activity room on the first floor.

The morning's activities included teacup flower arranging followed by lunch and a lovely Harvest Service led by Copelands' in-house chaplain, the Reverend June Parke.

All events were well attended and enjoyed. Our continued thanks to Sarah, our Activities Coordinator and wider staff team for providing such a vibrant and varied calendar for the residents.



Copelands were also delighted recently to welcome residents from Kirk House for a very enjoyable day of social chat.

The 'Engage All' session was especially tailored to bring both homes together and a lovely Afternoon Tea style lunch was enjoyed followed by a craft activity and cake (of course!).

Both sets of residents were able to socialise outside on the roof top garden to make best use of the views and weather. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all involved, whether residents or staff, further strengthening the 'BCM Family' bonds. A wonderful opportunity to connect our two care homes.



*Sharon (left) is the manager at Kirk House and Andrea is leading the team at Copelands.*





# PROJECT NEWS

## MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

During Men's Mental Health Week, the team from our Supported Housing unit in east Belfast focused on the physical and mental health of the young residents there.

So they embraced the fresh air and outdoor life on the north coast with fishing, swimming in the sea and jogging, as well as taking valuable time to relax and have discussions around mental health. Support Worker Stephen (middle) is pictured here with some of the guys from the project trying to reel in 'the big one'.

A huge thanks to Hagan Homes for generously providing the team with free 5-star accommodation in Portrush for their stay.



## FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



*Richard (left), and the team at Tafelta*

The team at Tafelta Supported Housing unit in Magherafelt recently celebrated five years of the project. At an event which welcomed representatives from other local support groups (following covid restrictions), the team were commended for the excellent support they have given to so many young people during those years.

The project aims to support vulnerable young people aged 16- 21 to develop the skills to live independently in the community and to offer them the opportunity to experience a gradual transition from residential, family or foster care to independent living.

## SHORTLISTED FOR THE INVESTORS IN PEOPLE AWARDS 2021

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®**  
We invest in people Silver

BCM has been named as one of nine companies and organisations from across the UK in the running to be recognised as the top employer in its category.

The Investors in People (IIP) Awards celebrate organisations and individuals from around the world across various organisational, people, wellbeing and leadership categories. Each year, hundreds of organisations from the UK and abroad battle it out to take home one of the sought-after accolades to showcase their commitment to investing in their people.

BCM has made the final shortlist for the UK Employer of the Year (Silver) in the medium sized company or organisation category. This recognition comes after being awarded the Silver IIP 'We invest in people' award in 2020. Awarded to only 20% of the organisations assessed by IIP, a Silver accreditation recognises the active efforts being made by BCM's people and leaders to ensure consistency and balance, allowing everyone in the organisation to benefit.

Nicky Conway, BCM's Chief Executive, said:

*"We were delighted to achieve the Silver accreditation from IIP last year during the height of the pandemic, thus demonstrating our commitment to investing in our people at this challenging time."*

*"Full credit for this IIP shortlisting must go to our entire staff team, without whom BCM, and the delivery of the services within, would simply not exist."*

# WORK FOR US

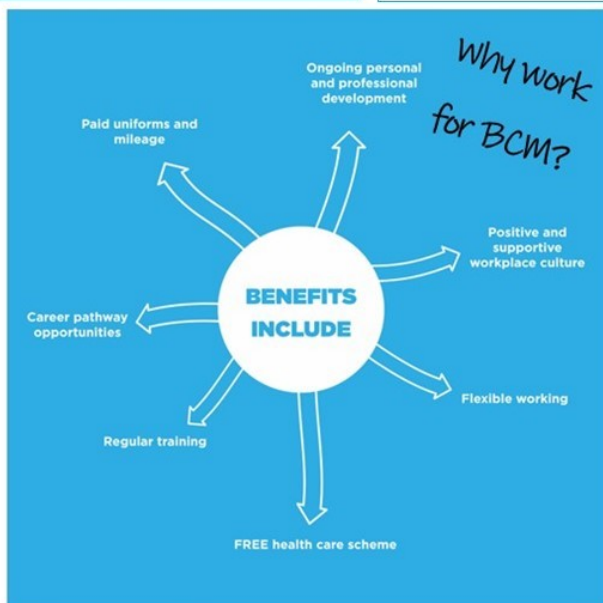


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