



Annual Report on our Subsidised Holidays Ministry in 2020

Since 1996 The Jonas Centre has provided a place of tranquillity where individuals, families and groups can get away from the strains and stresses of everyday life.

Since 2004 subsidised holidays **have been offered to the following**

The bereaved & their families	Those diagnosed with Alzheimer's
Young people from inner cities	Those facing debt or bankruptcy
Referrals from Social Services & GPs	The disabled (mentally & physically)
Single parents & vulnerable adults	Those suffering from depression
Victims of domestic violence	Those suffering from mental illness
Ex-Offenders & the homeless	Children and adults with special needs
Young Carers	Those struggling with addiction
Full time carers in need of a break	Asylum seekers & refugees
Children from Chernobyl	The terminally ill

The Jonas Centre responds to Covid-19 crisis

When on 23rd March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the whole country was going enter a period of lockdown with the associated closure of the hospitality industry, the future of The Jonas Centre looked decidedly uncertain. Our fabulous resource of cabins set in beautiful Wensleydale was going to be mothballed and closed for guests for who knew how long?

The Jonas Centre has a fine tradition of providing support for families and individuals in need through our subsidised holiday scheme. Since 2004 over 1800 reduced rate holidays have provided some well-needed respite for 3700 adults and 2300 children. Of course, holidays were out of the question, but could we still provide support to those in need at this time?

As soon as the government announced that local councils would have the responsibility for housing all those living on the street or facing homelessness, I contacted Richmondshire District Council to see whether we could offer support. At a time when we all need to work collaboratively, we were privileged to know that our working partnership with the District Council has offered such crucial support to some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Callum McKeon, the council's Corporate Director said "The log cabins have been generously offered to our housing options service and have been used by people that would otherwise be homeless at this time," he said.

Who have we helped?

It has been a privilege to support some very special people at this time. So far we have supported 8 different people from between a week and nine months. We thought we ought to share something of their stories. For obvious reasons, names and other identifying details have been changed.

The first of our new residents arrived just before Easter.

The Jonas Centre, Redmire, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4EW
01969 624900 | stay@jonascentre.org | www.jonascentre.org

Self-catering holiday accommodation & conference facilities; bringing individuals, families and groups closer together."

The Jonas Centre is operated by The Jonas Trust (Registered Charity Number 1049167, VAT Registration Number: 660305662)



Matthew became homeless after his relationship broke down. He was struggling with alcoholism and PTSD “I couldn’t pay my rent or pay my rates or anything like that. So that’s how I ended up on the streets. Hopefully at the end of the pandemic homeless people won’t have to go back to the streets. You’ve saved me in more ways than you could realise.”

Mark, a builder but with no work, was living out of the back of his van when lockdown began. We first met him on Good Friday. With the two public health crises of homelessness and coronavirus colliding head-on, he was referred to The Jonas Centre just before Easter. When asked what he misses the most. He looked at the ground. “My one-year-old son,” he said.

Luke says staying at the Centre really has saved his life. He had just come out of a bad relationship and became homeless with nowhere to live. The feeling of having his own room and space has helped him to heal.

John explained: “I was evicted from my property last month and was in the process of looking for a private rent when we went on lockdown.”

Mary lost her job during lock down. This led to her eviction as she could not afford her rent. She was three months pregnant. She turned 25 during her stay and earlier in the year said she’d love to go away to a log cabin for her birthday. Funny how things turn out.

Review of our subsidised holiday scheme

In 2020 we saw another increase in requests which, we are pleased to say, we were able to fulfil. A break away from home circumstances improves mental & physical health as well as giving a chance for families to relax together in peaceful surroundings. The log cabin becomes home for the duration of the stay providing a secure and private base.

Despite the number of subsidised individuals staying with us falling by over 90%, the number of subsidised nights we have been able to offer has increased by over 730%.

The future

As a result of the economic climate and the uncertainties around BREXIT, we are expecting a further increase in referrals in 2021. Referrals can come from Social Services, disability support organisations, GPs, hospital doctors, clergy, and carer support agencies, together with enquiries from individuals who have heard about us.

Can I encourage you to help us build on our previous successes by referring any individual, family or even a group you may know going through particularly difficult circumstances? A break away from familiar surroundings can make a world of a difference for those struggling with adversity. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a site visit to see us please don’t hesitate to contact us. Together we can make a big difference for many.

Simon Eastwood

Centre Director

The Jonas Centre, Redmire, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4EW
01969 624900 | stay@jonascentre.org | www.jonascentre.org

Self-catering holiday accommodation & conference facilities; bringing individuals, families and groups closer together.”

The Jonas Centre is operated by The Jonas Trust (Registered Charity Number 1049167, VAT Registration Number: 660305662)