



# STREET PASTORS PORTSMOUTH

working together to support and care for young people around night-time venues

## OCTOBER 2008 ~ NEWSLETTER No.5



**“Teamwork” at Operation Drink Safe Anniversary**  
Every Friday and Saturday night trained volunteers are out making a real difference providing pastoral care in the city centre of Portsmouth at night-time! Over 60 people are involved in ensuring teams of 5 Street Pastors from over 20 different churches go out each night. They are now seen as integral to the teamwork between the Police, Paramedics and door staff, and since July 2007 in conjunction with Operation Drink Safe violence + public order offences have reduced by 30%.

We are an essential part of the solution in reducing alcohol fuelled violence by offering a calming, positive presence on the streets where over 15,000 people are out mostly having a good time. Young people thank us every week for the work we find a privilege to do, and some even say they would like to train to be a Street Pastor! Over the last year we have spoken with over 3500 people in the Guildhall Walk area which has been the Hampshire “hotspot” for crime and disorder:

- ✚ Calming aggressive situations **95**
- ✚ Supporting people who are vulnerable **300**
- ✚ Cleaning people up with water/wetwipes **108**
- ✚ Picked up bottles/glass **700**

The Primary Care Trust are also supporting us with a comprehensive evaluation of our work. Flip Flops are our most popular item with girls on the streets who can't walk in their shoes and given out over 100 pairs over the last year! Last Friday a barefoot girl was completely overwhelmed and thanked us profusely walking away with tears in her eyes. Her friend turned back to us “You have really made her day”! Thank you to “Pubwatch” who kindly agreed to pay for our next 400 pairs.

### Recruitment Event ~ Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November

We are recruiting more Street and Prayer Pastors to start training in January 09. Come along to Oasis at 7.30pm or contact Elly for more information. We recruit every year as Street Pastors give a 2 year commitment to work once a month after their training. If you would like us to visit your church to explain more please call 07809 627770.

### Transforming the spiritual climate

Our vision is to change the ‘climate’ on the streets by acting like the “Good Samaritan”. Not preaching but listening, supporting and caring for those in need and signposting to people who can offer specialist help. Every night we have conversations about faith with people who have personal issues and ask for help:

- ✚ *Young man used to be a Christian until Mum died of cancer, appreciated someone to talk to, asked for Street Pastor card + invite to church*
- ✚ *Prayed with Army guy before going out to Afghanistan made him feel special*

We also give out Street Pastor cards if they want further help, with contact numbers of agencies, the Portsmouth churches website, and refer to Central Point for support for “rough sleepers”. All our work is covered by a network of prayer pastors for the teams and individual situations they come across.

**Southern Network** started in July by inviting other local areas developing Street Pastors to Portsmouth to support/share practice; IOW, Gosport, Southampton, Fairoak, Swindon and Weymouth.

**Fundraising and Publicity Teams** start in September to promote and sustain this amazing work. If you or your church can help with donations or sponsor a Street Pastor for £5 or £10 month please get in touch. Donations can be made to “Street Pastors Portsmouth”.

**If you can pray for us please Tel/email Kevin Sumner our Prayer Co-ordinator on 02392 381546**  
[prayer07@portsmouth07.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:prayer07@portsmouth07.orangehome.co.uk)  
**Many Thanks and Blessings for your support.**  
**Elly Mulvany – Area Co-ordinator**