



St Vincent's

a place of help, hope and opportunity

[www.stvincents-svp.org.uk](http://www.stvincents-svp.org.uk)

# Winter 2014/2015 Newsletter

## Tackling Poverty in 2015

**John Battle shares his thoughts on this increasing problem and how we can all do our bit to help.**

2015 is the year of renewal for the international goals on poverty, both globally and in the UK poverty is a major concern. In the UK the causes of poverty cut through the North/South divide and these problems are continuing to grow.

In 2015 we must begin a fundamental assault on poverty by supporting families. In Leeds this is the year for joining together to tackle poverty in our city through supporting the efforts of organisations like St Vincent's that are already carving out the path.

Whatever you are able to offer, you can make a difference by getting involved with St Vincent's. There are 45 volunteers donating their time, from an hour a month to several days a week, but to grow and develop St Vincent's will need closer to 100. Volunteers are an invaluable resource, and whether teaching classes, assisting in the shop, running events or assembling food parcels there is something for everyone.

### Ambassadors needed

For a small charity that punches far above its weight, St Vincent's is still not as well-known as it should be. Ambassadors are desperately needed who can spread the word and get the message out to those in the community who need to know.

There is continual need for practical, direct assistance such as quality used goods for the community shop. In these difficult times, financial support is essential to keep the key services the centre offers, including counselling and adult education, running and free to use for those who need them.

### Remain focused

As an election year, we can expect the media to be full of fear mongering and negativity as politicians compete for votes. At St Vincent's the values and goals are not driven by fear, but remain



John (left) and other volunteers collecting at the Christmas Sing-a-thon.

focused on building positive relationships between people, listening and taking action.

At St Vincent's, relationships between staff, volunteers and clients are second to none and are based on respect and mutual support. This should provide a model for how we operate in society, where solid relationships are more important than figures and scare tactics and where people come first.

In a year of political white noise, for St Vincent's 2015 will be about calm quiet conversations and making a difference that lasts.

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Opening times: 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri

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### IT'S A FACT!

In 2014 debt advisors  
saw 635 new clients  
and wrote off  
£745,430.31 of debt!