Revive Newsletter

Autumn Issue 2017

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Revive provides free integrated support and services run by skilled leaders which help bring about lasting change in the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum, enabling them to integrate and participate in the life of their new community.

Our vision is to provide high quality services to help refugees and people seeking asylum on their journey of recovery and growth.

Revive's events, in the last few months, have seen moments of human encounters which are insanely profound and transformational. From the famous Manchester Parade, The Refugee Week, to the Refugee Day Out at Ribble Valley and Irlam, Salford, and our weekly drop-in services we have stories of genuine meeting of cultures and sharing of our common humanity.

We have captured those for your delight and enrichment on this issue. You will find too many other ways we support our service users. Happy reading!

- **Uchenna Odenigbo**

Celebrating Diversity and Unity

Revive is proud to represent countries from all around the world. Our service users and volunteers come from places ranging from across the Middle East, to Western Africa, to the Caribbean. This fusion of different cultures is what helps to make this country the diverse, colourful one that it is today. Refugee Week is a time to celebrate this.

This year, Revive took part in various activities over the course of the week. Kicking off with Manchester Day, our Action Group put together some incredible costumes to wear during the parade.

Revive also collaborated with local artist Molly Pushkar. After weeks of sticking and stitching, the group were finally ready for the big day. All of their hard work had paid off and they had head-dresses and skirts in all kinds of different fabrics, colours and textures to showcase at the famous Manchester Parade.

Refugee World Cup & Family Fun Day

The celebrations continued during Refugee Week as we held our annual refugee World Cup and Family Fun Day. This event on the 24th June, hosted by MRSN and the Greater Manchester Refugee Support Partnership, was a huge success as families and friends came to join Revive's service users , volunteers and staff, in an action-packed and fun-filled day. The sun was shining upon us for the event. Food was provided by the Real Junk Food Project which uses surplus food to produce delicious 'pay as you feel meals

Away day to Ribble Valley

Our trip to Ribble Valley in July provided our service users with a breath of fresh air, a sharp contrast to the hustle and bustle of city life. The Clitheroe Christian and Muslim communities welcomed all of us with open arms. Our escape to the countryside included a wide variety of different activities for people to choose from including...

...a tour of the town centre and the castle, a walk around the valley, and a football shoot out for the kids. There were lots of cakes and some members of the mosque had cooked a delicious lunch for everyone of chicken and rice which we all ate together in the church hall. *"The trip was amazing. My children were surprised to see new things." – Malvina* (Feedback from a service user)

Irlam Away Day

The Parishes of St Joseph the Worker and St Teresa's provided a great away day on Saturday 16th September 2017 Service users and volunteers shared food, music and laughter at this event for all the family. There were games, activities and musical performances from some students from St Teresa's primary school and some of the staff even got involved in the samba drumming! *"I could not have afforded the cost of such trip and fun on my own. My wife also enjoyed it. Thank you!" Hassans family (*Feedback from a service user)

Enrichment programmes

The Allotment

The allotment has been a great success over the summer months this year and we harvested a bumper crop at the end of the season including potatoes, onions, beans and sweetcorn! Lots of service users got involved and were able to enjoy the fruits of their labour!. "It is highly therapeutic. I love growing organic plants and watching the bees," Kennedy, one of our service users said.

Young Adults Social Club

This is an opportunity for young adults to come together and socialise, play snooker and to discuss the issues that face them. When many arrive in this country they face loneliness and hardship so opportunities to meet up with those in similar situations can bring confidence and purpose to the lives of young refugees. "*We love coming here every Thursday to play and make new friends."* (Feedback from a service user)

Employability workshop

We support refugees at all stages and for those that are ready to start looking for work, the employability sessions are a great time to learn the necessary skills to equip them for the workplace. They can gain valuable experience and advice on stress management, CV writing, basic IT, job-hunting and completing applications. "*Listening to William share his experience motivated me a lot. I believe there is hope for me. I like the course," - Omar* (Feedback from a participant)

Music Therapy workshop

Toni Beardsall, from the music therapy charity, Nordoff Robbins, continues to bring music and laughter to the Salford drop in on Wednesdays with her music sessions. During the summer months we were even able to have some of the sessions outside which made the sessions even more enjoyable. "*The music makes my children to sleep very well." – Alladin* (Feedback from a service user)

English Class

Accessing English classes can begin to break down some of the barriers that refugees and people seeking asylum face as they begin to settle in to life in the UK. With language comes the opportunity to work and establish themselves within the community. Those taking the English class each week at our Salford Centre continue to make great improvements thanks to the fantastic work of our volunteers! "*I have learnt so much from my teachers. I would love to speak and write English like a native one day.*" - *Patrick (Feedback from a student)*

What Can I do at the Celebration of Black History Month

Cath Fernley, one of our volunteer ESOL teachers, summarises the importance of celebrating Black History Month.

"Recognising the contemporary context of Black History Month could never have been more important than it is today. 2017 is a year defined by a rise in racial tensions in Europe and by the continued activism to push back against these rising tides of discrimination.

As we well know here at Revive, the path of asylum seekers in their flight from war, persecution and misery is made more difficult by these tensions and so we wish to champion any opportunities to say - *you are welcome here!*

Learning English not only enables asylum seekers and refugees to communicate more confidently and effectively. It also supports them in understanding British culture and values.

In exactly the same way different cultural traditions have made impressive contributions to our shared humanity and they should be celebrated as such. ESOL teachers at Revive, like Rita Machin and I used the spirit of Black History month to convey this message to our students."

How can I support Revive?

Revive's work could not continue without the valued support or our team of volunteers, who assist our staff in both Immigration and Social Work departments, interpreting and running our enrichment projects.

We are constantly looking to recruit people who share our values and vision and are committed to improving people's lives.

Follow us, for more updates.

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@ReviveCharityUK

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www.flickr.com/Revive

If you think you may have skills and experience to offer, please get in touch. Whether you have experience in immigration, social work, media & communication, admin, interpreting or web design, we need people like you. Got an idea for a new project or workshop?

In return, we can offer you the opportunity to develop skills, gain insight, meet people from all over the world and contribute to changing people's lives.