

## GENEROUS SEMBCORP EMPLOYEES GIVE HOPE TO STRUGGLING TEESSIDERS



*Nomi joins some of the recipients of our support as they enjoy lunch together.*

The generosity of Sembcorp employees has given a big boost to a charity helping Teessiders living in chaotic circumstances.

A raffle of goods including chocolates and drinks donated to the company at Wilton by suppliers prior to Christmas raised £362 for a Stockton-based charity.

The Moses Project, created by former street workers Brian and Stella Jones almost nine years ago, helps hundreds of Teesside men battling addictions to either alcohol or drugs.

As a thank you for the donation, they invited Nomi Ahmad to attend one of the lunchtime sessions held four days a week where men come for a hot meal, guidance to other support services, mentoring and support.

Brian said: “We’re immensely grateful to Sembcorp’s generous employees for doing this. This kind of donation goes a long way and we’re grateful to all the businesses, organisations and individuals who help us each year.”

He added: “ We support some of the most forgotten in society - people who lack trust, self-worth and self-confidence and who as a result of life experiences – often at a young age - live chaotic lifestyles that leave them feeling completely hopeless.”

The Moses Project is an integral part of a network of organisations helping current and former addicts. It works closely with the NHS, the Probation service, Lifeline and other mental health support groups, housing groups and the homeless section of Stockton Council.

Brian added: “We treat everyone as family and slowly set about building a trusting relationship and encouraging the men to have a different approach to life and break free of addiction.”

The results can be life changing and as was seen during the visit, some of the volunteers working at the charity are themselves former addicts.

Craig Heaney, 45, openly talked about his experience. A successful London-based actor, whose work includes the award winning mini-series Band of Brothers, Casualty and the film The Dark Knight, he developed an addiction to alcohol and “literally came back to Teesside to drink myself to death.”

With the help and support of Brian and the team, he went on an 18 month rehabilitation programme and is now four years “clean.”

As a thank you to the Moses Project he now gives up his time and his theatre, stage, directing and camerawork skills to help those in a similar situation. Last year he helped a group of men write and produce a video showcasing the work of the Project, building their confidence and self-esteem.

Nomi said: “Visiting the Moses Project was a humbling experience and it is heartening to know that our employees have helped such a worthy cause.

“It’s easy to donate money, but much harder to give the time and attention to people that Brian and his dedicated team of volunteers do. They are helping some of the most unfortunate people in society.”



***Moses Project founder Brian Jones tells Nomi how the charity helps several hundred Teessiders a year put some structure back into chaotic lives and below Nomi with Craig Heaney***





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