

January 2019

To our Friends at Welwyn Garden City URC,

### Christmas Gift Bags for YMCA Residents

I write to express my thanks to you for the time and love given in making so many fabulous gift bags for the men and women who spent Christmas in our Hostels. Your generosity has meant that all 125 Residents in our Welwyn Garden City Hostel received a present. In fact you so were so generous, we are now able to bless Hostel Residents in need with toiletries throughout 2019!

Our Residents come to stay with us for a variety of reasons. Some may have experienced family or relationship breakdown, others might have poor mental health or addictions. Others have lost their jobs and are looking for work. We welcome them and provide support and care to help them get back on their feet and live independently again.

Christmas can be a really challenging time, when people reflect on all they have lost. An unexpected gift coming from a stranger is a sign to them that they are valuable and remembered in thought and prayer. Your kindness is also a sign that God has not forgotten their situation and is still active in the world today.

One resident told us that their family don't want anything to do with them, so their gift bag was a reminder that God was with them. Another told us 'I am so touched. Really is this for me? I didn't expect to get anything this Christmas. Is this really for me?' Many other residents have expressed their joy at getting their gifts and the difference it has made to their Christmas.

We are encouraged by and thankful for your support. May God increase his blessing to you in the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,



Matt Penny

Lead Chaplain

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YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION