

MISSION STATEMENT

Within a Christian caring environment we will provide assistance to homeless men on an individual basis. We will offer advice and support to empower and enable residents to make positive choices in all aspects of their future.

VISION STATEMENT

We will be a stepping stone for men who have been homeless to develop skills and build up self-confidence to enable them to move into suitable alternative housing, breaking the cycle of homelessness.

**The Salvation Army
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Registered Charity No. 215174, and in
Scotland SC037691; Republic of Ireland: Registered
Charity No. CHY6399.

Modern and Purpose built...

Booth House, named after the Founder of The Salvation Army William Booth, is a modern purpose built centre for 150 homeless men. It was completely refurbished in 2002 and opened by Her Majesty The Queen. This was a return visit for The Queen.

The primary purpose of Booth House is to accommodate single homeless men aged over 18 years who have a history of rough sleeping. The centre engages with clients in the process of preparing them for and leading them to independent or minimal supported housing.

The centre provides quality supported accommodation with 24-hour staff cover and will work with service users to enhance and advance their personal living skills. Resettlement programmes will be made available to all clients to prepare them for permanent independent accommodation or suitable alternatives.

The Salvation Army continues to work to serve the community and reach the needs of people. Booth House encourages each individual to have a sense of personal dignity and for that to be recognised by others, to acknowledge basic rights and responsibilities of a person which will contribute to quality of life and to empower individuals to recognise their right to make choices which lead to enhancing their life-style.

Rebuilding lives...Restoring hope



Our Story **BOOTH HOUSE**



A brief history

The Booth House Story...

The East End of London is the home of The Salvation Army's beginnings in 1865 and Booth House is privileged to be still operating in the area. Booth House sits between the *Blind Beggar* public house and the site of the People's Mission (which is now *Kays Textiles*). The site of Victoria Home originally belonged to the *Victoria Wine*



Company. At a later date, alterations were made to the premises and the building was used as an orphanage.

The Salvation Army took over the site on 24th February 1919 and opened as a Working Men's Hostel. This was one of many food and shelter depots being opened around London and the UK. Victoria Home housed 310 men in dormitories, 20 men to a room. The communal facilities (rooms) were located down in the basement.

One of The Salvation Army publications "*The Deliverer*" in 1922, reported that the Working Men's Hostel (complex) in Whitechapel, accommodated 540 men. This included 128 private cubicles. The hostel was not far from the *City Colony Headquarters* which at the time demonstrated the need for shelters or known as "*Harbours for Refuge*" which would, as William Booth stated in his famous book *In Darkest England and the Way Out* "*supply their immediate pressing necessities, furnish temporary employment, inspire them with hope for the future, and commence at once a course of regeneration by moral and religious influences*".

Grand Opening in 1968...

In March 1968, Her Majesty the Queen (Elizabeth II), opened Booth House after extensive work being completed on the building making it the first "purpose built" Army hostel in London, accommodating 211 men.

In 1971 a bail hostel was incorporated into the centre for men on remand (Field Wing). This "*first such hostel was inspired and financed by the Xenia Field Foundation and opened in November 1971, for an experimental period of three years as part of Booth House*" (*Bread for my Neighbour*, Coutts, 1982, 2nd Ed, 178). Rooms for twelve men were provided. During January 1973, directed by Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Harry Dean, a counselling

service had started at Victoria Home. There was also the provision of pastoral counselling provided. This ministry has continued and it now has premises in Stratford.

The Spiritual ministry at the centre was developed through what was called the "*Inns of healing*". In these meetings, the aim was to share fellowship together and to assist an individual in walking with them on their faith journey. These meetings happened in five different parts of the complex on a Sunday.

Another experimental project was opened in 1975 which commenced the Detoxification Unit. A ten bed unit (Dry Wing) was set aside offering skilled medical, nursing and social work to men addicted to alcohol offering a 7-8 day course. The unit provided a day care facility for men seeking

support who had already been through the programme, residents in the hostel, men living in other hostels, men seeking a "refresher" and many other men who would benefit themselves from the facility.



Following a generous contribution by the City of London, a unit for single elderly men was made possible. This unit occupied the 4th & 5th floors of the Booth House complex and was

named *Rawson Home*. This unit was named after the Chairman of the Welfare Committee of the City of London in 1968 (Mr. Christopher S. P. Rawson).