

BBC
RADIO 4
CHRISTMAS
APPEAL

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

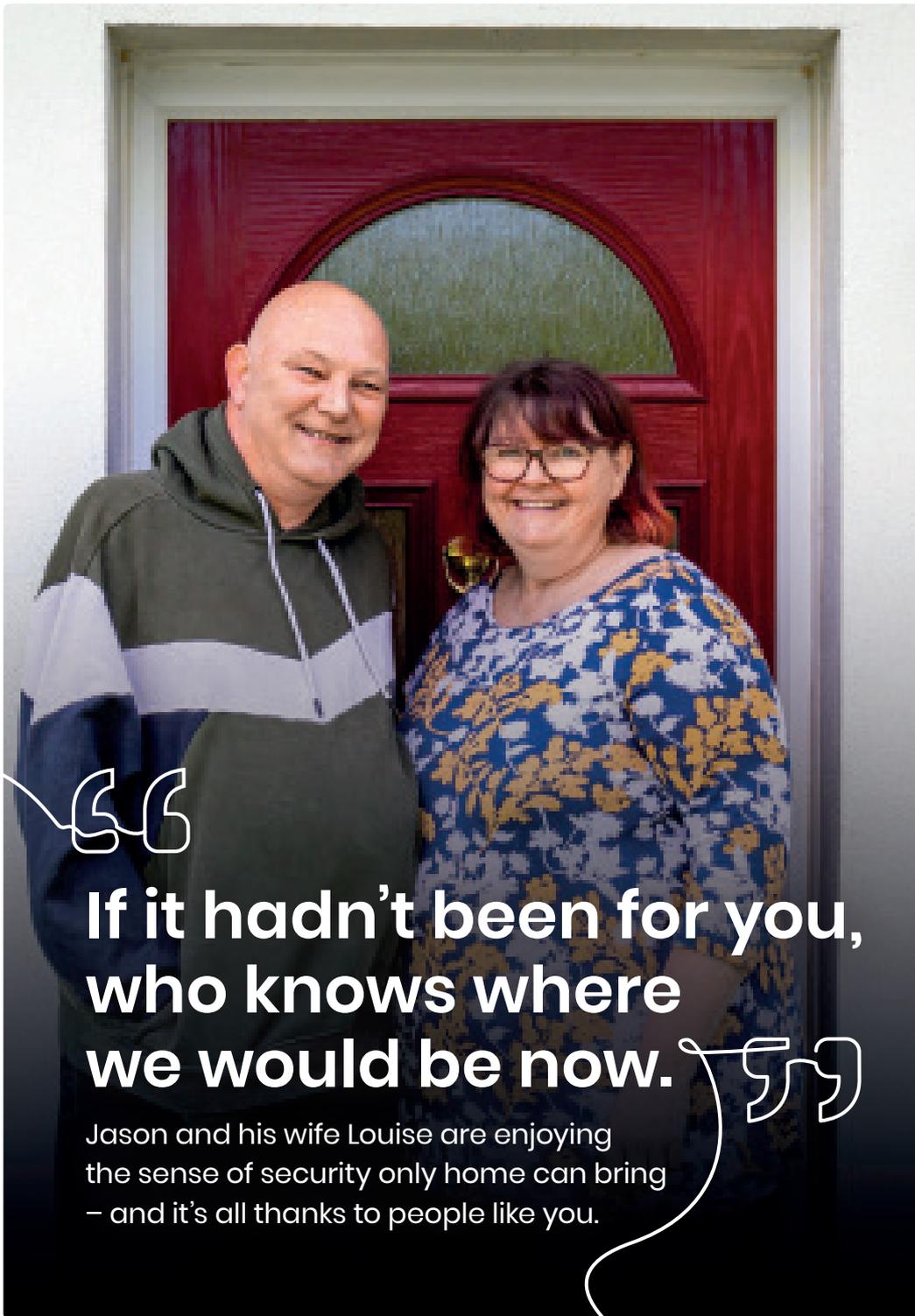
Together

Working to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home



This is what home means

Inside: how your kind support has provided
much more than a place to stay.



**If it hadn't been for you,
who knows where
we would be now.**

Jason and his wife Louise are enjoying the sense of security only home can bring – and it's all thanks to people like you.

Nine months ago, it looked like sleeping in their car was the only option Jason and Louise had left. Today, their lives have completely changed as we catch up with them on a visit to their new home...

A turbulent time

After being asked to leave their accommodation at short notice, Jason and Louise had nowhere to call home. What followed was a turbulent time. Although they were given temporary accommodation, it wasn't the stable base they needed to rebuild their lives. It was dirty and noisy, and it had a staircase which, given their mobility issues, made it impossible for them to live there long term.

Settling in

It was at this difficult time that your generosity provided them with a chance to make a real home. Gifts like yours helped to cover their first month's rent in advance, which they needed to secure their bungalow. Today, they're all settled in. "It's just bits and pieces that need doing now, but it's looking more like home," Jason told us.



People like you sent such kind messages to Jason and Louise alongside your generous donations last Christmas. They were delighted to receive them!

"Good luck in your new home. May you have fond memories to look back on in the future."

Mr Hill, Reading

The amazing journey ahead

Finally, Jason and Louise can enjoy all the things that come with having their own home, like safety, comfort, and belonging. And they're especially excited to have a place where they can share wonderful memories with their grandchildren. Reflecting on how grateful they are for your support, Jason said, "look where we are now, on this amazing journey. And it is all thanks to you."

Follow more life-changing journeys...

You can read even more stories about how support like yours has helped people take the next step – just go to [smitfc.org/stories](https://www.smitfc.org/stories)

You've helped thousands of people take the next step home this past year

Over the last year, whether someone was just beginning their journey towards a safe home, or finally getting the keys to the door, your support has helped us be there every step of the way.

Starting the journey

You've helped so many more people move on from homelessness – providing warm showers, fresh clothes, vital advice and safe temporary accommodation. In London alone, you've helped 1,125 people sleeping rough find refuge away from the streets. And across the rest of the UK, you're supporting six more organisations who are tackling homelessness in their communities.

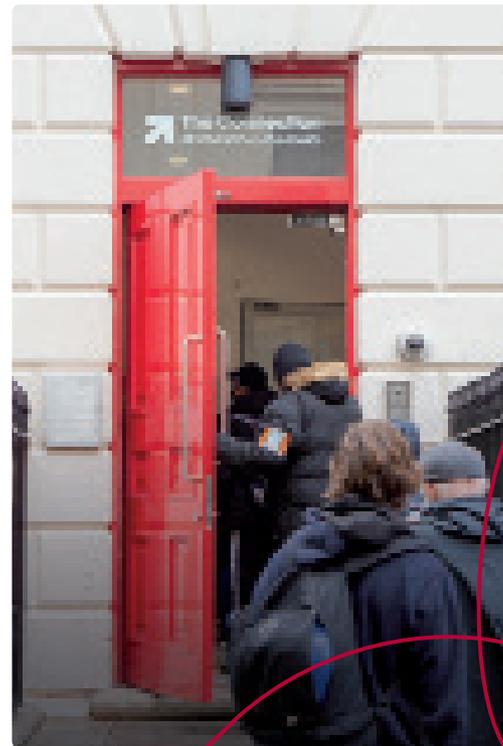


Providing support at every step

We simply couldn't help people experiencing homelessness without the frontline workers who provide professional and emotional support at every step of the journey. Gifts like yours have funded their vital work too.

You've helped train frontline staff for all sorts of situations, whether it's dealing with trauma, substance misuse or supporting EU migrants facing homelessness. And you've helped provide a supportive community for them through local and national partnerships – amplifying their voices to raise awareness of the issues that matter.

Photo: Marc Gascoigne



Unlocking a brighter future

When it comes to building a brighter future, having a place of comfort, stability and belonging means everything – and your support is the key to unlocking that.

With you on our side this past year, we've provided 4,582 housing grants to help people experiencing or living with the risk of homelessness. These grants are lifelines that provide financial support to help cover a deposit, pay for the first month of rent or protect a family from eviction.



I cannot praise enough how St Martin's Charity has helped so many people unlock the next stage of life. You may have lifted a debt, but more vitally, you've taken off a huge weight.

A frontline worker who applied for a grant to help someone facing eviction



7,183

people supported with housing grants to protect them from homelessness

£1,829,134

of housing grants awarded

7

UK organisations supported to tackle local homelessness

£20,661

awarded to provide training for vital frontline workers

77

educational events held to support and grow our national network of frontline workers

826

frontline workers surveyed to help improve the support for people facing homelessness

We'll be here in the months ahead...

Cost of living: Energy price cap expected to rise by £830 to £2,800 in October, says Ofgem chief

sky News | 24 May 2022

As we move further into 2022, the mounting headlines are a stark reminder of the work that lies ahead if we're to continue to support people away from homelessness this year.

According to the New Economics Foundation, over a third of households can't afford the cost of living (March 2022). Their income is so stretched that they're cutting back on essentials like food and clothes. But these savings may still not be enough for some, and more families could even find themselves unable to pay their rent.

56%

of frontline workers we surveyed were worried about people having to choose between housing costs and other basic necessities



For the poorest fifth of the country, essentials, including housing, are already taking up over half of their disposable income, as the Resolution Foundation found in March 2022. This is putting people at risk of homelessness, and increasing the demand on services like ours.

Thank you for being with us

We're calling on all our supporters to help make sure we can be there for the people who will need us most in the months ahead. Thankfully, with a strong community of generous people like you, we know we can rise to the challenges that await us.

From everyone at St Martin's Charity, thank you once again for the generosity you've shown over the last year. Only with your support can we continue to help people enjoy the comfort and stability of a home, no matter what the future holds.



More than 250,000 households will slide into destitution this year, taking the total number living in extreme poverty to around 1.2 million.

National Institute for Economic & Social Research (NIESR).



A time for solidarity

Home means security, independence, safety. When the basic necessity of home comes under threat, we turn to community to restore it.

What holds communities together in difficult times is solidarity. That's what you've shown this year. I draw hope from knowing there are people like you, in every neighbourhood in the UK, ready to show the generosity that people in jeopardy need. Thank you.

Revd Dr Sam Wells

Sam

Want to know more about how you can help?

If you'd like to know more about how you can support us in the months ahead, please head to [smitfc.org](https://www.smitfc.org)

A photograph of the St Martin's Church tower in London, featuring a tall, ornate spire with a golden finial and a clock face. The building is made of light-colored stone and has a classical facade with columns. The sky is a clear, bright blue. A red decorative line curves across the right side of the image.

For the journeys yet to be taken...

We want to make sure support is always available for people experiencing homelessness. Gifts in Wills are vital to keeping our services open for all the people who will need them in the future.

Leaving a gift in your Will to St Martin's Charity today is quick, easy and could make a life-changing difference for generations to come.

If you'd like to find out more, you can get in touch below:

Call 020 3795 5745

Email info@stmartinscharity.org.uk