

A SNAPSHOT



Offering hope, support and a future
to homeless and vulnerable people



Welcome

Welcome to this year's Snapshot, where we look back on what has been achieved by our clients, volunteers and staff from April '24 to March '25. I'd like to start with a big thank you to our community who have supported us throughout this challenging year.

Many of you will know that in July '24 The Gateway Centre, where we run Genesis Life Projects, had a flood and we had to move out temporarily. We were closed for five weeks whilst we organised alternative premises and so a huge "thank you" goes to Widcombe Baptist Church who have generously housed Genesis Life Projects since.

We are so grateful for this support and of the generosity shown by so many other churches and organisations during this time.

This new location not only allowed us to continue supporting our clients but also enabled us to demonstrate resilience to our clients in how we handled the situation. It has also encouraged us to reflect on how we run our projects (see p4).

Bath Foodbank has also experienced change with a move to a new warehouse in December and organising a merger between Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley foodbanks (more on p8 and p9). A warm welcome to the 115 volunteers joining us from Keynsham and Somer Valley foodbanks. We are very grateful to all our volunteers for their help and commitment this year. Thank you.

Throughout all this we have kept the focus on our clients and their journeys to positive change. I'd like to thank all our volunteers, fundraisers, financial supporters and church communities for the support you have given during the year. You have enabled each client/staff relationship to build and each connection to thrive.

As you read through these pages, please know that all of this is made possible because of the community around us. Together we are seeing new beginnings and better futures.

Nick Mayo CEO



Year at a glance

24/25

74 families and individuals supported by Genesis Furniture



161 volunteers involved across all projects



5,521 people provided with emergency food from Bath Foodbank

Plans start for 'Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank'



Genesis Life Projects

650 clients supported over 10,845 visits



88% of Life Skills participants reported a positive change



80% of participants rated Life Course as 'Excellent'



3,293 meals shared at Life Connect



Made Genesis on the Canal our temporary home



1,362 hours of one-to-one support given through Life Thrive



5% increase in different individuals visiting Lifeline's crisis support



e news

For up-to-date news, stories and events please sign up to our e-news via our website.

Genesis on the Canal

An opportunity to review and reflect

Despite the challenges of moving sites, this time of change has provided an opportunity to assess our preparedness and strengthen our resilience. It has been reassuring to see that our processes and systems allowed us to restart with minimal disruption.

A stand-out strength is our commitment to embedding a robust PIE framework* to enhance overall wellbeing for both clients and staff. Equally, our trauma informed approach has kept the focus on each client's need.

As we continue forward, we'll take our experience of adaptability and proactive planning with us, ensuring we remain ready to meet our clients' needs, no matter the circumstances.

“Moving has taught us so much. Just like when COVID changed some of our practices, we'll take our learnings back to Gateway. Difficulty makes you do things differently and you realise, some things could be better.”

SUE FOURIE, GENESIS LIFE PROJECTS MANAGER

*Psychologically Informed Environment: building relationships through understanding behaviour, creating a space for positive change, providing adequate staff training, reflection and evaluation.



Highlight – Agency Visits

At Genesis on the Canal we have hosted agency appointments. These have not only provided essential services for our clients but strengthened local partnerships.

Our clients face many barriers in accessing much-needed practical support. Some have chaotic lifestyles, anxiety or previous trauma which prevents them attending appointments. By bringing services to Genesis Life Projects, where our clients feel safe and trust us, we create a greater chance of our clients making follow-up appointments needed off site.

“Just out of the Dentist...IMMENSE RELIEF, thank you all a million times.”

THIS CLIENT HAD AN ABSCESS BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GET AN NHS DENTAL APPOINTMENT FOR MONTHS.

Our clients have had sessions with mobile liver scanning and alcohol support, opticians, dentists, housing support, local hairdressers and vet services for their pets. Overall, these appointments have had a real impact on our clients' health and wellbeing.

Chris' Journey

“Genesis made me feel less ostracised and more human.”

Chris grew up in the Bath area in foster care, but for most of his adult life lived and worked abroad. For the past 20 years he'd settled in Texas, USA, near his birth parents, raising a family on a ranch. In 2024 he came back to Bath alone following a divorce and had no other choice than to live in a tent. He then moved onto a boat along the canal.

Chris first came into Genesis on the Canal in December '24. He was brought by a friend. The combination of spending Christmas without family and winter on a boat made his introduction to Genesis all the more important.

He came to our Christmas meal at St John's Church and joined our weekly Faith Group. This social involvement as well as one-to-one support enabled Chris to build his life back up and make friends. The following February and March he attended the men's group and regularly joined us for soup on Fridays at Genesis on the Canal.



Chris Outside Genesis on the Canal

Genesis Life Projects staff have helped Chris with boat licencing and insurance, supported him with doctor referrals for his epilepsy and then helped Chris liaise with the CRT (boating authority) to allow him to moor in one location when needed for health reasons.

“Sue and the team are less like staff and more like family. Their support has meant the world to me. It gives me the ability to feel independent, but I know, should I need it, they'll be there to support me. Genesis is like a safety net.”

Chris hopes to organise a fundraiser in aid of Genesis, walking the Brecon Beacons with some friends. He feels like that is something he can do to give back to Genesis and support other people like himself who need a hand-up.



Genesis Life Projects

Genesis Life Projects had to close for five weeks after the Gateway flood whilst we organised an alternative location.

Since the move some projects have been affected more than others and, overall, we have seen an increase (3%) in individuals accessing our support. The central location is attracting more people but brings challenges with maintaining opportunities for deeper relationships and meaningful engagement. Both the PIE framework and interlinking nature of our projects remain key in our clients achieving positive change in their lives.

“Our space offers support, a feeling of belonging and connection which is crucial while people are navigating challenges and feel alone.”

SUE FOURIE,
GENESIS LIFE PROJECTS



Lifeline

5,085 visits

**459 unique visitors –
a 5% increase on last year**

Lifeline continues to provide immediate practical support within Genesis Life Projects while fostering a supportive relationship that will not only meet their immediate needs in crisis but also, if possible, provide a setting in which more long-term work can flourish. The drop-in nature of Lifeline has grown substantially in the last few years, so our focus is growing relationships to facilitate lasting change for clients.

Life Connect

3,293 meals served

434 different clients engaged

Although the format is a little different following the move, Life Connect still provides three nutritious meals across the week for our clients to enjoy together. Our Thursday lunch at St Johns Church continues to be busy with an average of 39 clients each week. Thanks to Widcombe Baptist Church we offer Friday lunch at Genesis on the Canal, attended by 21 clients on average. We have a continental Wednesday breakfast of pastries, fruit, toast and cereals with 26 clients on average. All meals are an opportunity to model positive behaviour to our clients, connect and share a respectful interaction with each other.



Life Thrive

1,480 one-to-ones attended

One-to-one support underpins all our projects and is essential in building our clients wellbeing and facilitating their onward journey. The smaller space at Genesis on the Canal has made confidential meetings more difficult to accommodate. 66% of our one-to-ones are categorised as 'wellbeing' which mainly covers addiction, mental and physical health and personal identity.

“The more we understand our clients' behaviour and where they are coming from, the more efficiently we can work with them.”

SUE FOURIE, GENESIS LIFE PROJECTS



Life Skills

24 courses and activities

**Before/After courses: Low
wellbeing from 70% to 33%.
High wellbeing from 0% to 19%**

Moving to Genesis on the Canal affected which courses we could continue and for how many clients. Despite the challenges we maintained and adapted courses to provide something for all clients. A highlight has been a new course 'music and imagery' which clients engaged with well. Life Skills often leads from or to Lifeline or external agencies, acts as a means of connecting with others and building relationships.

Life Recovery

**80% rated The Life Course as
'Excellent'**

6 clients attended, 5 completed

The Life Course runs for 10 weeks and supports clients in recovery from addiction and mental ill-health. This year, due to the flood and staff changes, we ran one course. To accommodate the needs of the clients attending it ran slightly differently: one course for five clients and a sixth client attending on a one-to-one basis.

SMART Recovery is our group for clients in active addiction and has shown strong growth since we started in August '23. In the weekly session clients share and encourage each other in their journey away from addiction. If you know of anyone who needs support with addiction, please pass on Nathan Gale's details:
nathan.gale@genesistrust.org.uk



Bath Foodbank

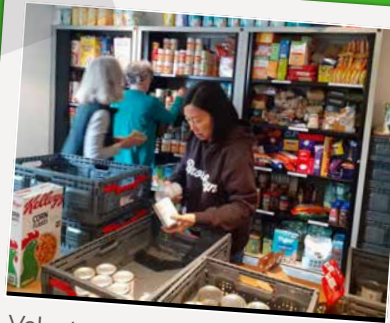
This year Bath Foodbank has provided food for **5,521** people, **1,465** of whom are children. Three-day emergency food parcels are given to anyone who comes in with a voucher issued by local agencies such as Welfare Support. We've seen a **5%** increase in referrals this year with the most common reason for needing the voucher being 'rising cost of essentials'.

Each parcel consists of donated food and this year the community has given an incredible **53,000kg**. Thank you to everyone who has added to this total through donations and financial gifts.



The food parcels can only be given out because of **84** amazing volunteers. We are so grateful for all the support you give with packing, sorting, delivering and collecting the food, as well as welcoming and speaking with clients. Thanks also need to be given for all those who helped us move warehouse this year – we couldn't have done that without you.

Bath Foodbank is a wonderful example of how the community supports one another.



Volunteers at Twerton's Lighthouse Centre

Moving Forward...



This year has also been busy organising the merger between Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley foodbanks. As of June '25 the three have become one foodbank as part of Genesis Trust.

Foodbanks have been facing challenges in recent years. With increasing need and demanding regulation, merging the three local foodbanks will help us best serve our clients across the region.

The foodbank will continue in partnership with Trussell which includes sharing the Citizens Advice support across the foodbank centres, funded by Trussell. The merger will help us provide a joined-up service across the community.



Volunteers at the warehouse in Hayden

Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank has 10 centres hosting **13** weekly sessions for clients. We share **3** warehouses and **2** delivery vans. We are also privileged to have over **200** volunteers as well as hundreds of individuals and organisations providing food for those in need.

Together we can provide the best support possible for those facing crisis in our community.

Genesis Furniture

We helped **74** families and individuals as they moved into accommodation by providing affordable furniture to local agencies such as Welfare Support. We provide items such as bed frames, mattresses, kitchen starter kits and sofas.



Our van in action

Genesis Furniture continues to grow with a **46%** increase in turnover to **£389,000** this year. A big thank you to the 806 local people who donated their furniture to make this possible and to all the volunteers who helped in our warehouse. All profits go toward supporting homeless and vulnerable local people.



Thank You!

A massive thank you to all our fundraisers, supporters and volunteers this year. We are so grateful for the support you provide for homeless and vulnerable adults in our community.



The Future

As we look toward the year ahead, we are pleased to be developing a number of things to better support our clients.

Firstly, as we merge the three foodbanks to become 'Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley Foodbank', we will be focusing on how we can best serve our clients across all three areas. This merger aims to make the foodbank provision across the region more consistent and efficient for clients whilst minimising duplications in workload and administrative burdens. A big thank you to all our volunteers and staff who work so hard to keep the foodbank running smoothly and offer a friendly welcome to people who come along.

Secondly, at the time of writing (Sept '25) work has begun on refurbishing and upgrading the Gateway Centre, mainly funded by the sale of our West Avenue premises. Even before the flood we intended the sale would fund improvements needed such as a new roof, kitchen, disabled toilets and shower facilities. This is an investment in Genesis Trust to help keep our work focused on clients rather than on infrastructure, hopefully for generations to come.



Over the next few months we will be reviewing Genesis Life Projects based on our reflections over the past year in preparation for moving back into the Gateway Centre. We are very grateful to the Genesis Life Projects team for their resilience and solidarity over this time of change. We look forward to reopening at the Gateway Centre in 2026 with refreshed enthusiasm.

As we continue through 2025, we'd like to thank all those across our community who support our work with homeless and vulnerable people, for your continued commitment and encouragement. Through growing relationships, our clients are experiencing real positive change in their lives as they journey toward a better future. None of this could happen without the commitment of individuals, churches, organisations and schools who share our vision for a thriving and supportive community.

Thank you for partnering with us. Thank you for partnering with our clients.

Gift in Wills

After supporting loved ones in your Will, how might a gift given to Genesis Trust, however small, have an impact?

From the moment a client first comes into contact, every interaction they have with our staff, volunteers and each other is part of the process of building relationships. These relationships lead to trust, community and positive change.

But relationships take time and that is where Gift in Wills comes in.

A gift given in the future means the relationship that starts now can continue to be nurtured for as long as it needs to. Gift in Wills enables the next interactions to develop and grow into hope and transformation.



Find out more on our website or email Emma Drew
emma.drew@genesistrust.org.uk

Ways to help...



Find out more and donate
www.genesistrust.org.uk

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