

# Project 165

Marking YMCA Derbyshire's 165 years of service



We are seeking 165 new partners to share our mission and witness.

Will you join us?



[www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165](http://www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165)



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## Introduction to YMCA Derbyshire



**W**e are an independent Christian charity committed to helping young people, particularly at times of need, regardless of gender, race, ability or faith. We were founded in 1847 – just three years after George Williams established the world's first YMCA in London – and have been serving the local community ever since.

Operating from two centres in Derby and one each in Chesterfield and Ilkeston, we have a vision for the holistic development and support of young people in body, mind and spirit. We exist to break down the barriers preventing young people and others from flourishing, and to empower all those who stay with us or use our services to fulfil their potential.

### A Christian charity with a mission

Our Christian identity and character has always been extremely important to us. Everything we do is firmly based on our Christian values – to protect, to trust, to hope and to persevere – taken from the moving words of Paul in his first Letter to the Corinthians. Our work provides a powerful witness to the dignity and value of all people, and especially young people, as children of a loving God.

We believe that working to help young people flourish involves a concern for their spiritual wellbeing – whatever their faith or beliefs. We support our residents to grow in their faith or develop the spiritual dimension of their lives. A Bible is made available to every resident and we encourage them to make use of a prayer request box. We need your support to retain and develop this mission in the years ahead.

**1847:** Derby YMCA is founded, only three years after the first YMCA is established in London. Dr Ogle is one of the key figures in our early years.

“I was 18 when I moved into YMCA Derbyshire's Campus. I remember the day well – it was such a rollercoaster and I think I just cried for most of the day. The staff were really caring and made me feel welcome. The YMCA has really helped me. I have grown up, learnt to live independently and become a more confident person.”

**Lauren (YMCA Derbyshire resident)**

### Supported Housing

We provide supported accommodation in Derby for 83 vulnerable people aged 16 to 64 who would otherwise be homeless. We also provide 'Crashpads' for 16 and 17-year-olds experiencing temporary homelessness and support up to 87 vulnerable young people in the Chesterfield and Ilkeston areas to live independently in their own homes.

### Learning and Development

We offer a suite of innovative training programmes for young people who need a second chance to fulfil their potential, as well as schemes for those experiencing unemployment and courses to encourage independent living.

### Children's and Young People's Services

We provide services for children in and out of school aimed at helping them to develop their potential and avoid the pitfalls of poverty. Our Y-Play holiday playschemes include fully integrated places for those with special needs.

### Sustainable Community Development

We provide various services to help needy people in the community, including a Furniture Project in Chesterfield and a social enterprise giving apprentices valuable experience in the building and property maintenance industries.

**1892:** Our new centre on St Peter's Churchyard in Derby City Centre is opened in the presence of the YMCA's founder, George Williams.



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## What is Project 165?



We are marking our 165th anniversary in 2012 by seeking to recruit 165 new partners and friends – either individuals, churches or other organisations – who can support our work by their prayers, financial donations or donations in kind. Each Project 165 member will be valued as an important member of the team and will be making a real and tangible difference to the lives of the young people we support.

We have a long and proud history of serving vulnerable young people in Derbyshire, but we cannot rest on past successes. In order to reduce our reliance on statutory and grant funding and to continue being able to respond to needs rather than changing political agendas, we need to develop a base of committed local supporters.

### How your donations can make a difference

- £2.50** buys a proper meal for one of our residents
- £25** buys a pair of smart shoes for a young person to attend a job interview
- £38** is the cost of housing a 16 or 17-year-old in the Crashpads for one day
- £50** is the cost of preparing a room for a new resident
- £100** buys a furniture pack for a resident moving into their own place
- £208** is the cost of a week's housing and catering for a homeless person

“Living at the YMCA has helped me find the independence I'll need for the rest of my life. I feel safe and protected here, and assured that I'm in a place where people care about me. The words of Psalm 91 now resonate very clearly in my heart – 'He alone is my refuge, my place of safety'.

**Chris (YMCA Derbyshire resident)**

### A message from our appeal sponsor



The Rt Revd  
Dr Alastair  
Redfern,  
Bishop of  
Derby

“YMCA Derbyshire has been providing a powerful witness to the God-given potential of every young person in our community for nearly 165 years and I wholeheartedly endorse its work.

In our current secular society, YMCA Derbyshire has remained true to its original Christian identity and mission by extending a warm welcome to everyone and working to develop young people in body, mind and spirit.

It is very important that this local Christian charity is able to continue and grow its work to enable young people to flourish and to put its values into practice.

I urge all Christian communities in Derbyshire to participate in the YMCA's witness to the dignity and value of all young people and others by supporting and praying for its continued success.

**1932:** We provide much needed assistance to local people during Derby's Great Flood, which devastates much of the City.

**1939-45:** We operate a war-time tea cabin at the railway station in Derby for departing and returning soldiers fighting in the Second World War.



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## How you can join us



There are various ways of becoming a YMCA Derbyshire Project 165 member, both as an individual or as a church or group. We would really value any contribution you feel able to make.

### Pray for our work and mission

We are a Christian charity and value your prayers for our work of witnessing to the God-given dignity of our service users. Please drop us a line to let us know.

### Make a single donation

You can detach and return the form on the back cover of this pamphlet together with a cheque or postal order. Alternatively you can make a single donation by debit or credit card online by visiting [www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165](http://www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165) and following the link to our dedicated fundraising page on BT MyDonate.

### Take out a standing order

Taking out a standing order to support our work is easy and much appreciated. We can send you a standing order form to complete, or you can download it from our website at [www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165](http://www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165)

### Gift Aid your donation

If you are a UK tax payer, we can claim an extra 25p from the government for every £1 you donate if you tick the relevant box on the form and sign it. You can also opt to Gift Aid your donation if you use our online payment service.

## Making a real difference: Matt's tale of homelessness survival

I got kicked out of my mother's house after my relationship with her husband broke down. I 'sofa-surfed' for a while, but finally found myself without anywhere to go. As an act of desperation I ended up sleeping in a tent in the middle of the woods – it was either that or sleeping in a doorway.

On my first night in the tent, all I had was a sleeping bag and three sets of clothes. I managed to get a job as a bar tender in Matlock and managed to buy a stove and heater. My colleagues and family had no idea where I was living.

I slept out in the tent every night for two months. Eventually my mother found out and told my grandparents, who helped me find information about options available for homeless people. I went to Milestone House and was directed to the YMCA. Thankfully I was able to move in the same day.

When I first arrived at The Campus, the first thing I did was just lie on my bed – the first time I'd been able to do that for ages. I then had a warm dinner, did some ironing for the first time in a long while and had a shower. These are things most people take for granted, but I appreciated them in a new way after being homeless for so long.

After three months living at the YMCA, I now feel more confident in myself, better at being around people and more hopeful for the future.

If you live here at the YMCA you're part of a community rather than just another cog in a wheel. You get to know the support workers and other members of staff and you realise that they have our best interests at heart in what they do. For me, being here has sorted my life out.



**1967:** We open our new centre on London Road in Derby. A fundraising event hosted by Princess Mary in 1963 helps to pay for the building work.

**2010:** HRH The Duchess of Gloucester officially opens our new Campus for Learning and Development on the site of the old London Road centre.



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Thank you for joining Project 165. Every penny you feel able to donate will be used to build up and support our services here in Derbyshire – making a real difference to local people in need.

Please return this form together with your donation to:  
**Project 165, YMCA Derbyshire, 770 London Road, Wilmorton, Derby DE24 8UT.**

**I would like to become a YMCA Derbyshire Project 165 member** (please ✓)

**Your details**

Rev/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (delete as appropriate)

First name:  Surname:

Address:   
  
 Postcode:

Telephone:  Email:

I would like to make a one-off donation of: (please ✓)

£10  £20  £50  £100  Other: £

By ticking the box I confirm that I would like YMCA Derbyshire to treat my gift as a Gift Aid donation. I confirm that I pay income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that YMCA Derbyshire will reclaim on my donation (currently 25p for every £1). *giftaid it*

I enclose a cheque or postal order made payable to **YMCA Derbyshire**

To donate using a credit/debit card, visit our website: [www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165](http://www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/project165)

Signature:  Date:

We would like to keep you updated on our work, but if you would prefer us not to contact you, please tick the box to the right. We promise never to pass your details on to third parties.

Tick this box if you would like to receive information on taking out a standing order.

YMCA Derbyshire is a registered charity no.1049904. Registered office: 770 London Road, Wilmorton, Derby, DE24 8UT.

Protect Trust Hope Persevere