



Press Release Warm & Toasty Project

As the result of a unique collaboration, on November 14th 'Warm and Toasty' will be officially opened at the Mustard Seed in Callington to support all those struggling in these unprecedented times.

As the cost of living spirals and energy prices hit an all time high, many individuals and families through no fault of their own are plunged into food and fuel poverty, having to make heart breaking decisions as to whether they can eat or be warm or in some cases neither.

Understanding that local communities were struggling the 'Together We Can Succeed' Project decided to take action. This group of Community Interest Companies founded by Nikki Markham MBE comprises of Transferable Skills Training CIC, Winning Steps South West CIC, Battling On CIC and Grown That Way CIC.

Sue Johns the Community Programmes Manager of Winning Steps put out the call to local organisations to come together to address this issue by creating a warm drop in hub where individuals struggling could come together and keep warm, engaging in a variety of activities including arts and crafts, armchair yoga.

Sue's request for support was immediately answered by Malcolm Shiers and Alex Polglase from the Trussell Trust Food Bank to work in partnership to start up a project for the Callington community. Working with Trustees from the Mustard Seed Church the venue of the Mustard Seed Hall was kindly offered for the project over the winter period.

Mike Tagg from Callington Town Council, Jayne Roycroft from Volunteer Cornwall and Mai Evans from Live West all contributed by helping identify funding, volunteers and helping with the logistics.

Debbie Spurr from Callington Primary School and Edward Farley from Callington Library are also working with Warm & Toasty to provide additional warm spaces for local primary school pupils and the general public.

Local Social Prescribers will be working with Warm & Toasty, identifying vulnerable individuals who will benefit from attending the project to help maintain their health and wellbeing. Advice and money guidance will also be available from various organisations during the project.

Nikki Markham MBE said “We have been increasingly worried by what we are seeing across the Together We Can Succeed Group. Children attending college having no lunch and have often skipped breakfast, our elderly eating one meal a day and then often cold food, families struggling to keep their disabled family members warm and veterans unable to get to support groups as they cannot afford the transport costs. We had to do something even if it is just providing a warm space for some camaraderie and a simple hot meal. Sue & Alex have done a tremendous job of pulling everyone together, forming the partnerships and organising the Warm & Toasty project in just a few weeks. It is incredible what local organisations can do together to support their communities when the need arises.”

For more details about Warm and Toasty, its opening times and activities or if you wish to offer your support or volunteer, please visit the Wining Steps website www.wssw.org.uk. or email Sue Johns sue@wssw.org.uk