



Summer 2023

Introduction

east to west's unwritten 7th ethos word is relationships! Over the years we've been blessed to build strong relationships with churches, project partners, supporters and funders. One of these funders is Tesco, and we've been amazingly blessed by them over the years, receiving more than £17,000 through their community grants programme. You'll read later in this newsletter about Dan representing east to west at a Tesco's function in the Houses of Parliament as part of this partnership.



I was in Tesco recently and asked for some tokens and was given a small handful (21!). When I got to the receptacle, I was blessed to see the numbers of tokens people (local to Egham), had put in – who had chosen to support us in bringing hope to young lives. It is always massively encouraging and inspiring to know that others are wanting to partner with us in our mission.

As east to west supporters, I give thanks that, like those putting blue tokens in that pot, you've chosen to partner with us to 'Bring Hope to Young Lives' – on behalf of myself, everyone at east to west and those thousands of children, young people and families we support each year, thank you.

I hope you'll find what you read in this terms newsletter equally encouraging and inspiring.

God Bless,

Irum's Church Engagement and Social Media

Whilst I'm still relatively new in this role, I can definitely say that many things that I have been working on are beginning to take shape. One part is the social media content, which is now more in keeping with our east to west brand. I hope you are enjoying reading the posts and (if you aren't already) interacting with them by hitting the "like", "thumbs up" or "share" button! I would love your feedback, as well as ideas – do let me know what you would like to see more of!



In May, east to west were invited to Activate, a women's conference focused on equipping, training and inspiring Christian women to be active in sharing God's love. It was great to meet many wonderful women and share the work of east to west. I was encouraged by the numbers who signed up to receive wePRAY and the newsletter. In the congregation were two Primary School Headteachers who were very interested in our work; they said, "this is exactly what we need in our school". We have already met with one head and have a meeting in place with the other. This is so exciting and I love how God knows who needs to hear about us, and create a way for us to meet.

To email me directly, you can write to irumb@easttowest.org.uk

Andy Rich – trustee moving on

This term, we're saying goodbye to Andy, one of our trustees. Andy has played a vital role in helping grow and develop our communications strategy over the past few years, making better use of the technology behind the social media posts, wePRAY emails and newsletters you see on a regular basis. We asked Andy to share some of his thoughts and reflections on his time at east to west:

"When I first got involved in east to west about 4 years ago I never could have guessed what those years would have held! Moving into hospitals, Youth Offenders Institutes,



colleges, new partnerships, new schools in new counties, navigating country wide lockdowns and a growing and changing team have all been part and parcel of trustee life and it certainly hasn't been boring! That said, it's easy as a trustee to get bogged down in spreadsheets and documents and miss all of the great things and great people that east to west works on and with, so I'm very grateful that we get to hear amazing stories of God's grace and provision to our team along the way.

During my time as a Trustee our family has grown and now that parenting responsibilities are in full swing for me I'm stepping down to make way for someone with a bit more time and energy to take on the responsibility of communications and reputation - Please do consider whether it could be you! (You get to work with Dan and Irum which is always a bonus!)

If you're a supporter I'd really recommend speaking to the team at every opportunity to help bring to life the work that they do and understand how much your support means to all of us. Thank you so much for all of your prayers for the board and the team over the past 4 years, they've truly made a difference in unprecedented times."

It has been a real blessing to all of us at east to west to have Andy's involvement over the past 4 years. Whilst we're sad to see him (and the family) go, we know it's the right time for him and them and pray blessings on them all as they move onto the next stages God has planned for them.



Voices of Hope

"A school staff member was seeking some advice for their son. They came to me for advice because they could see the way we interacted with and cared for the young people we saw. After an emotional chat, and helping the staff member to see a different way to approach their son, they responded "I just need a mini one of you always in my back-pocket!"

Early Intervention Co-ordinator in Secondary School

"A young person who had many complex issues, and is currently sitting her GCSE's wrote to her Relational Support Worker saying: "I want to say thanks again for helping me this past year, you've made my last year easier to deal with by just being there to talk to. Your support has allowed me to fully address things that have happened to me, which means a lot. You're the best east to west worker I've had, thank you forever."

Young Person – Year 11



“east to west has helped me to find ways to help my anxiety, as well as help me to think positive and try not to make everything negative. They have also helped me to try and bring out the best in myself and what I do whether it’s something small or huge.”

Young Person – Year 6



“I’ve supported this young person for 3 years, ever since they started their journey in secondary school. They would refuse to come into school, avoid classes and plan escapes. They were showing high levels of anxiety and waiting to be assessed by CAHMS. Throughout the 3 years, we provided a safe space for this YP and this space looked different on a daily basis; be it sitting outside the school gates; sitting in the car with YP and parent; holding her hand and walking her into school or walking her to lessons and sitting in some lessons with her. We played games and I provided a space for her to talk and let her anxieties out. I worked with the school and parents to ensure that the YP was supported in the best ways possible and felt safe in an environment where her anxiety was highly triggered. 3 years on, they are now able to walk into school independently, access all classes, enjoy relationships and friendships with peers and teachers, and academically achieve well. I’m super proud of her and all she’s achieved.”

Relational Support Worker in Secondary School

“east to west has been fun, worthwhile and freeing. It’s been helpful to talk about how I feel, having a safe space to go to. I will be more open with how I am feeling instead of keeping it all inside. I feel great, like a weight has been lifted, and I feel free! My support through east to west could not have gone any better.”

Young Person – Year 7

“The young person was referred to me having attempted suicide. They were also over-dosing every other week. When she spent time with me, she was very quick to say that she is finally being “heard”. She has complex family dynamics, including a parental divorce where the father was being abusive and she was being asked to visit him as part of the social services involvement. Together, we explored, not only healthy coping mechanisms but also explored boundaries, encouraging her to see other peoples perspective and understanding what her role in all this can look like. Although there are many other underlying issues which are still being explored, since we began working together, she’s stopped overdosing, and will come regularly to meetings and often pops in during her lunch/break”

Relational Counsellor in Secondary School



... finally
being
heard.

Hospital Project Update



You may be aware that we've been collaborating with Emerge Advocacy since we began the hospital project 6 years ago. On June 19th, we made some changes and brought the project completely under the banner of east to west, so that the hospital project and the work we're doing feels fully and authentically east to west.

The added benefit of doing this, is that we will be able to build on the trust east to west has within schools with both parents and young people, and help reduce any confusion that may arise by operating under a different name. We have renamed the project from the east to west Emerge Project to the east to west Hospital Project. Within the hospital, we'll simply be known as east to west.

The hospital is aware of these changes and we've worked closely with Sally Greensmith (our hospital liaison) to update our hospital standard operating procedures and protocols ensuring we can continue to work without interruption or change. To further cement this, Clare and Jenni have spent time over the past couple of weeks visiting different departments making them aware of the updates.

We are incredibly grateful to Emerge Advocacy for their support and guidance in setting up this project and we look forward to maintaining a close working relationship in supporting young people in the hospital environment.



Clare says: "We're really grateful to Emerge Advocacy for all the help and support they've given us over the years, from launching this project to their wisdom and guidance as we expanded it from two sessions per week to six. It's been lovely to get to know Joy and the team at Emerge and I'm looking forward to continuing to work alongside them as part of their role within the Surrey Wellbeing Partnership. We're grateful for their understanding of our reasons for making

these changes and will be praying with, and for them, as they continue to serve in so many different locations the needs of young people and their families."

Arrivals, Departures and new roles



Lei – North West Surrey Short Stay School (Relational Counsellor) – As mentioned in the Spring Newsletter covering letter, we recruited Lei just before Easter as the new Relational Counsellor at NWSSSS. NWSSSS is one of four short stay schools in the county which support students who've been permanently excluded from mainstream education for a variety of reasons. Lei's role will be to support the academic team, providing pastoral and clinical support with a view to equipping these students either back into mainstream learning in a new space, or to best succeed at NWSSSS.

Please pray for Lei in this new role and as she works alongside students in this challenging environment.



Gemma – NWSSSS (Outreach Worker) – Gemma was one of the candidates that we interviewed alongside Lei for the Relational Counsellor role. An outstanding candidate, we were keen to hold onto her in some capacity, and in conversation with NWSSSS they asked whether we'd be able to fill a vacancy they had for an outreach worker! Gemma was perfectly placed (especially as the schools NWSSSS wanted to work with are our existing partner schools – an example of a God-incidence!?) to take on this role, and we're delighted that she has!

Please pray for her as she settles into this new way of working and give thanks that God has provided a space for her to join our team.

We'll be speaking with Lei and Gemma in more depth in our Autumn newsletter to find out what life is like at NWSSSS, the types of things they're up to, the challenges they face and how we can pray for them.

east^{to} west



Liz – Twickenham (Relational Counsellor) Liz Taylor (yes really), has joined us on a short-term agreement to support the work of Sandra and Jennifer at Twickenham school. The school recognised that they needed additional clinical support, and Liz has happily agreed to do this for us.



Nicky – Sadly just before Easter, Nicky handed in her resignation from her role at Marnel Primary school in Basingstoke. Nicky had done a brilliant job working with the children in school, having created gardening clubs, provided 1:1 support and been a loved presence throughout both the school and east to west. Nicky has now started working with a church in Guildford. We are so grateful for all Nicky brought to east to west and will be praying for her as she settles into her new role – we wish her all the best.



Natalie – Hampton High (Relational Support Worker) – After a year in post, Natalie has decided that the time is right for her to move onto new projects. In her new role, she'll be delivering an online mentoring program, supporting young people across the Capital. We're praying for her as she makes this change and give thanks for all she's done over the past year with us.

Our Hinchley Wood Relational Support Work Project will be closing at the end of the academic year. We will still provide support through the EIC role. Whilst we're sad to lose any partner, we fully understand that in these financially challenging times, schools have difficult choices to make and we respect their decision to use their finances in a different way. Naomi (who was the RSW at Hinchley Wood) will be moving to Hampton High in the next academic year, replacing Natalie, as well as taking on the EIC role at St. Paul's Catholic College in Sunbury.

Fundraising Update

On Sunday 10th September we'll be taking part in the London to Brighton charity bike ride. This is a 55 mile trip, departing from Clapham Common and covering the South Downs, culminating at the seafront in Brighton. We have some spaces available for supporters who'd like to join us – we'll pay for your place, and transport you to and from the start and finish points. You just have to ride the 55 miles in between! We're also asking you to commit to raising £250 in sponsorship. If you're interested or would like to find out more, please email Dan at danb@easttowest.org.uk



We've partnered with Give As You Live to launch our own free giving platform for online shopping! If you do your weekly shopping online, or are looking to book a summer holiday, you can do so and raise funds for east to west! It doesn't cost you anything... it's all free! Simply visit scan this QR code with your smart phone! What's more, when you raise £5 in donations, east to west will get an additional £5!! An easy way to bring hope to young lives!



Prayers

Please pray for Nicky and Natalie as they settle into their new jobs – pray that God would bless them in these new spaces and give them peace and excitement about these new challenges.

Give thanks for Lei, Gemma and Liz and their new roles within east to west. Please pray for them as they settle into the organisation and begin to build positive relationships within their settings.

During the past 6 months, we've worked particularly hard to update our data capture provision. Whilst there has been a team gathered from across east to west, we'd particularly like to give thanks to Clive (EIC Team Lead and working across schools in Woking) who's gone above and beyond to ensure that this new project has been put together and useable in such a short period of time. Give thanks for the blessings and usefulness these new systems and tools will have in helping us share the hope that's been brought through our work.

Give thanks for the board and all they do supporting the work of east to west – particularly pray for Andy as he moves on and for the recruitment of new trustees. If you're interested or know of anyone who might be, please email chair@easttowest.org.uk

Pray for our team as they come to the end of the 2022/23 academic year – pray that they'd have the energy to keep going to the end of July and that their holidays and breaks would be restful!

Give thanks for God's blessings of finance which enable us to keep 'bringing hope to young lives'. Pray that God would continue to put east to west on people's hearts and that we'd continue to be equipped to deliver the role we've been called into.

Pray for our Shared Leadership Team (SLT) as they begin to make preparations for 2023/24!!

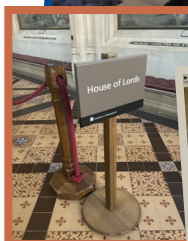
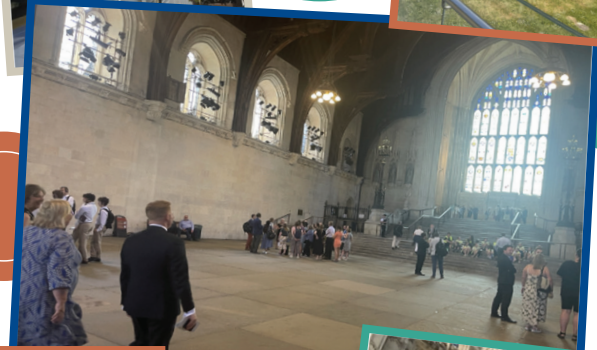


House of Commons

In June, Dan visited the House of Commons to represent east to west at the Tesco Community Grants Summer Reception!

Earlier this year we'd been the recipient of a £10,000 grant and have been blessed by many other grants over the past 6 years. It was an incredibly

hot day, and there were some regrets about wearing a grey shirt, but lots of very positive and encouraging conversations including the MP for Twickenham, Munira Wilson – Lib Dem – who is their spokesperson for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care. It was exciting to be able to share about the work of Sandra, Jennifer and Liz in Twickenham, Ezra in Teddington and Natalie in Hampton High, schools the MP knows well. We're hopeful that we'll be able to arrange a time for Ian to meet with her at one of the schools in due course.



A brief glimpse: east to west's year!

Whenever an organisation reaches the end of a year they tend to do a review of what's happened in the previous 12 months – think BBC's Sports Personality of the Year without the balls, bats or trophy!

To do this, we wanted to give you a brief snapshot of everything that's gone before!!

September 2022:

Lots of new team members arrive!! Jennifer; Nicky; Katie; Joanne; Erica; Emma S and Camille, and new projects with colleges and youth offenders go live!



Ian Smith appointed to lead east to west.

October 2022:

Cece arrives to start work in a detached role to support Philippa at Hoe Valley.

Tesco's Golden Grant of £10,000 arrived!



November 2022:

Launch of Royal Ascot Golf Club Captain's Charity of the Year partnership.



Shared about work of east to west at Christ Church Virginia Water – one of our Mission Partnership.



December 2022:

Worked with the amazing team at Waterfront offices in Staines, collating and wrapping over 200 presents to distribute and share with children, young people and families across our partner projects.



Took part in two Christmas Tree festivals, helping to share the work of east to west in Englefield Green and Ashford (Surrey).

January 2023:

Irum recruited to new role of Engagement and Communications Co-ordinator.

Spoke at Dedworth Green Baptist Church on the topic of 'the Good Samaritan' and east to west's role in bringing hope to young lives. Irum shares about the work of east to west and ways of continuing our Missionary Partnership with the church.



February 2023:

Burns Night Fundraiser held at Royal Ascot Golf Club – over £7,000 raised on the night.

Charity Log (our new data capture system) begins to take shape!



March 2023:

Clare B receives a Surrey High Sherriff Award for services to Young People.

Team from east to west asked to respond to need at non-east to west partner schools – Kate, Rob, Luke and Emma all stepped in to respond to the unexpected deaths of staff and students at two schools in Surrey.



April 2023:

The new partnership with North West Surrey Short Stay School launches, with the recruitment of Lei as Relational Counsellor and Gemma as outreach worker.

Patron Gill celebrates her 80th with a garden party!



May 2023:

Nicky moves on from east to west to take on a youth work role in a church in Guildford.



The Hospital Project is nominated for a Spelthorne and Runnymede Borough Council Volunteers award recognising the brilliant work being done by the team at St. Peter's Hospital and in the community.

June 2023:

Charity Log goes live!

Dan visits House of Commons to share about the work of east to west .



Said goodbye to Natalie who moved onto a new charity, supporting young people's mental health in London.

Speaking at St. Paul's Addlestone, to share about the work of east to west and continue our Missionary Partnership with the church.

Clare B, Dan and Irum attend an event at St. Peter's to share about the work of the Hospital Project and officially relaunch the updated brand!

July 2023:

The conclusion of the Hinchley Wood Relational Support Work project.

This newsletter sees the official supporter launch of the hospital project!

'east to west has helped me to find ways to help my anxiety, as well as help me to think positive and try not to make everything negative ...'



Thank you so much for your ongoing support. If you'd like to get in contact with east to west, change your details, or come off of our mailing lists, please get in touch. You can do so using:

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