



Rising Sun
Domestic Violence
& Abuse Service

23a Military Road
Canterbury
Kent CT1 1YX

judith@risingsunkent.com

www.risingsunkent.com

Tel: 01227 452852

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Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons
c/o Mr IH Ward
51 Rochester Avenue
Canterbury
CT1 3YE

Dear Mr Ward,

On behalf of everyone from The Rising Sun Domestic Violence & Abuse Service I would like to sincerely thank you and everyone at East Kent Freemasons for your £750 donation. This will go a long way to support women and families affected by domestic abuse. Further to this, as mentioned by Gill, we have secured a matched funder for all new donations so your generous support will be doubled. I have included a thank you certificate as a small token of our gratitude.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have adapted our services so that we can still reach those most in need. We offer our therapeutic recovery programmes and 1 to 1 counselling via phone or video call and continue to support younger children by offering family support to mums and their children. We have experienced increased demand and intensity in issues such as child contact, pandemic anxiety, increased isolation, and challenges in parenting. Your donation is as vital now as ever.

As you may know Rising Sun has been supporting adults, families and children for over 40 years, and as well as rebuilding lives we also deliver many prevention projects which has helped young girls like Rubie*. (names have been changed to protect identities)

Rubie was referred to our service as she was at high risk of exclusion from school and being thrown out of her home as she was drinking, in trouble with the police, and as she said herself 'being at risk from sexual exploitation'.

I have included a little of her story below.

'It took me a while to connect with Rising Sun worker and at first I just wouldn't turn up. She didn't give up though, and when I started to turn up, I didn't share too much information.

She turned out to be so supportive and I trusted her and shared my problems.

During the months I saw her I look forward to my sessions; my anger and negative behaviour started to disappear; and after a very scary experience I stopped drinking; I learnt about healthy and unhealthy relationships and they even organised a voluntary work placement for me in a local charity shop – I loved it and the shop only had good things to say about my work.

My goal setting included getting back into education: I got into college to study Hair and Beauty and went on to get distinctions as well as getting my GCSEs in Maths and English. Things were also getting better in other areas of my life – I do loads of stuff with my mum.

When I look back on what has happened to me I can honestly say that, even though it was hard work at times, Rising Sun helped me turn my whole life round. Instead of heading towards a criminal record, I am now sending out my CV and looking for work; I'm in a safe relationship and really ENJOYING LIFE.

If you have any questions or would like to hear more about how we are supporting women, children and young people across East Kent then please let us know.

We really do rely on our local community so that we can provide our vital work to all that need our services, so thank you again to everyone at East Kent Freemasons for choosing to support us.

With sincere thanks

Judith Collins

Fundraising and Communications Officer