Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter!

Stories like Jamie’s show the difference that selling Big Issue North can make to people’s lives – offering an alternative to begging and criminal activity. His inspiring story is typical of the positive steps our vendors make, and of the way it can change not just lives, but aspirations for the future.

None of our work to help vendors change their lives would be possible without your donations of money, time and skills, so thank you for your ongoing support.

Fay Selvan,
Big Issue North Chief Executive
Fundraisers put best foot forward

Last month, seven of our supporters took part in the Simply Health Manchester 10k Run to raise money for Big Issue North Trust.

Christian, Sabine, Anne-Marie, Fia, Hayley, Nicky and Deborah all put themselves through their paces to do their bit to support our vendors. We found out more about why they chose us as their cause:

**Christian:** Big Issue North Trust is not a massive charity, but it does a lot with the little money that it gets. I was talking to a vendor who, with the help of the Trust, has been through college so he can work as a painter and decorator. He is about to start work, and the Trust has even helped pay for the equipment he needs!

**Sabine:** Homelessness has become a huge problem in Greater Manchester in the past 10 years. I find it really upsetting to walk round our beautiful city and see hundreds of people sleeping rough. I am hoping that by running 10k for Big Issue North Trust, I will be able to raise some money to help support vulnerable people, who are looking for a solution to their problems and who choose to work for a living to support themselves.

**Anne-Marie:** I dislike running. In fact, I actually hate it! I’m aiming to raise a little bit of money for those less fortunate than myself. Taking part is one way in which I can help those who need it the most.

**Fia:** I am raising money for Big Issue North Trust, which will really make a difference to vendors. It’s part of The Big Life group, which is the company I work for, as a teacher, in a wonderful school, and it reaches out and serves communities like no other!

**Hayley:** I have decided to do the 10k run not only to help people who are less fortunate than myself but also I’d like to challenge myself as I haven’t run this far before. The children at the school where I work have spoken about homelessness in Manchester, and I think they would appreciate me making a contribution towards a charity that helps people experiencing homelessness in the city.

Meanwhile, another dedicated supporter has embarked on a touching fundraising venture. Marg Pierce took on the challenge of one of the Camino walks in north west Spain, in memory of her son, Gavin.

Gavin passed away unexpectedly at the age of 36, following a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis. He received treatment at Arrowe Park Hospital and was a big supporter of Big Issue North, regularly making donations at Christmas.

Raising money for Big Issue North Trust and the hospice that looked after Gavin, Marg was recently joined by two friends to walk the famous route, covering more than 70 miles in five days!

If you would like to help Marg hit her fundraising target, please visit her JustGiving page: [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marg-pierce](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marg-pierce).

In **Manchester,** we’re relocating! You can find us in our new home: Raven House, 113 Fairfield Street, Manchester, M12 6EL from Monday 17 June.

In **Liverpool,** Big Issue North staff visited ForFutures, a council led homelessness prevention project. We delivered a talk on how to become a vendor, and the additional support that comes with the role – thanks to donations to our trust.

In **Leeds,** we have been working with Big Change to use a small pot of funding to provide home starter packs to vendors who have managed to secure accommodation.

In **Harrogate,** vendor Simon recently received postcards from customers who were on their holidays. Despite a lack of address, local postal worker, Peter Nichols delivered them to his pitch. This uplifting update featured on the BBC News website!

In **Manchester,** staff and vendors are getting ready to attend the Manchester Day Parade, taking place on Sunday 23 June. Vendors will be supported by staff to work with local artists to create a float for the event.

Vendors who access the **Sheffield** office will be receiving supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits. All thanks to the Royal College of Nursing Yorkshire and Humber division! You can read a little about our involvement with the RCN on page 4.

In **Manchester,** Freshfields, a national law firm, opened the doors of its office to a Big Issue North vendor one day a week, meaning that staff will be able to get their weekly copy of the magazine straight from the comfort of their office.

And, this change of scenery for the vendor also comes with a skills programme, facilitated by staff at Freshfields. That means that on the days that they are there, they will not only get the income from sales over lunchtime, but also learn more about life in different office environments during the morning and afternoon.

If you would like to find out more about how your workplace can support our vendors or Big Issue North Trust, email fundraising@bigissueinrthenorth.com.
I ended up back on the streets for two years, begging and busking to get by. I was arrested for begging. Bolton town security, enforcement officers, told me I needed to come and sell the magazine instead. Now I have just moved into a new flat, and I am selling the magazine again so I can buy some furniture and get my life back together. All my regulars, they are people who remember me when I was begging, and they all say they are proud of me because I’m doing this, because I used to be sat there on the pavement asking for money. Selling the magazine builds your confidence.

Alan, Bolton

My whole life just spilled out of control from being ill, so I started to sell the magazine to make some extra money so I could take care of myself and my family. I am being supported to do loads of interviews and as soon as a job comes up I will be on it. But that’s not to knock the magazine. It is a good thing. It allows you to go and make money without doing any badness. I think without this there would be a lot of crime out there in the world. I can’t understand those people begging – why can’t they just get badged up and sell magazines? Big Issue North is a great thing for people who need it.

Dave, Manchester

Selling the magazine has kept me out of trouble, massively. If the magazine wasn’t here and I hadn’t started doing it when I came to Manchester, I’m pretty sure I would have started shoplifting again and ended up back in jail. For me it has served a massive purpose.

Charlie, Manchester

CHARITY PLANS IN MEMORY OF LIVERPOOL VENDOR

In recent weeks, we received the sad news of the death of John Gibney. For many years, John sold Big Issue North in Liverpool, touching the hearts of staff and customers alike.

While we are saddened to hear of his passing, John’s memory will live on thanks to two of his regular customers and friends, Oddvar and Trinne.

Oddvar and Trinne met John when visiting Liverpool from Norway four years ago. After buying a magazine from John they bonded over their shared love of Liverpool FC. Despite the distance, Oddvar and Trinne kept in regular contact with John and even flew over to attend his funeral, alongside Liverpool office staff.

In light of John’s passing, Oddvar and Trinne are taking steps to set up a charity in his name. The charity will focus on helping other people like John, who have experienced homelessness in Liverpool city centre. We look forward to bringing you updates on their progress.

In John’s final interview in 2018, he passed on a message, “I want to say thank you to all my customers. I enjoy the conversations that we have and I love the fact that you care so much about me.”

HOW BIG ISSUE NORTH HAS HELPED ME

Our work from April-June

| The number of times we helped vendors access health support | 44 |
| The number of times we provided education, employment and training support | 41 |
| The number of times we supported vendors with housing issues | 67 |
| The number of times we provided crisis support | 22 |
| The number of times we supported vendors to get ID | 5 |
| The number of times we supported vendors to report a crime | 4 |

To make a donation to Big Issue North Trust, and enable more vendors like Dave to change their lives, please take two minutes to complete the attached form.

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The Big Trip

Many of you receiving this newsletter will be booking and looking forward to your summer getaways. But, did you that your holidays can help vendors?

Through our Big Trip campaign, supporting vendors through the summer comes in three simple steps, and you can jump on board at any stage:

1. Book holidays and buy any items you need through Easy Fundraising, selecting Big Issue North Trust as your chosen cause.

2. Take a picture of your Big Issue North in the most unusual locations and share it on social media, using #TheBigTrip and tagging us @bigissuenorth

3. When you’ve finished topping up your tan, don’t forget to donate your loose foreign currency through Leftover Currency. They take leftover holiday money off your hands, convert it back to pounds, and pass it straight onto us. Visit www.leftovercurrency.com/charity and select Big Issue North Trust.

How to donate

We are so grateful to everyone who donates to us, if you haven’t donated already, here are some ways to support our vendors.

To set up a standing order to support our vendors please fill in the form enclosed with the newsletter or call 0161 848 2420.

Donate online at justgiving.com/bigissuenorth

Please make out donations by cheque to Big Issue North Trust and send it to 463 Stretford Road, Manchester, M16 9AB.

For more ways to raise funds for us please contact fundraising@bigissueinthenorth.com

RCN open doors

Recently, we attended Mental Health: Beyond The Diagnosis, an event organised by the Royal College of Nursing.

Darren took a day off from his usual pitch in York and was able to sell the magazine at the event, while our staff were able to promote our work and make great connections with other professionals working in public health to further support vendors.

Organisers from the Royal College of Nursing arranged for tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits to be collected at the event and donated to our vendors in Leeds and Sheffield!

If you would like to donate items for vendors, or would like to work with Big Issue North at an event, please get in touch via fundraising@bigissueinthenorth.com

It’s really easy to raise funds for the Trust with EasyFundraising while shopping online. Just remember to set Big Issue North Trust as your chosen charity and start raising at no extra cost!

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk today!