

RATHAB

RESTORING ALL HOPE AND BELIEF

Impact Statement

2022

HOPE

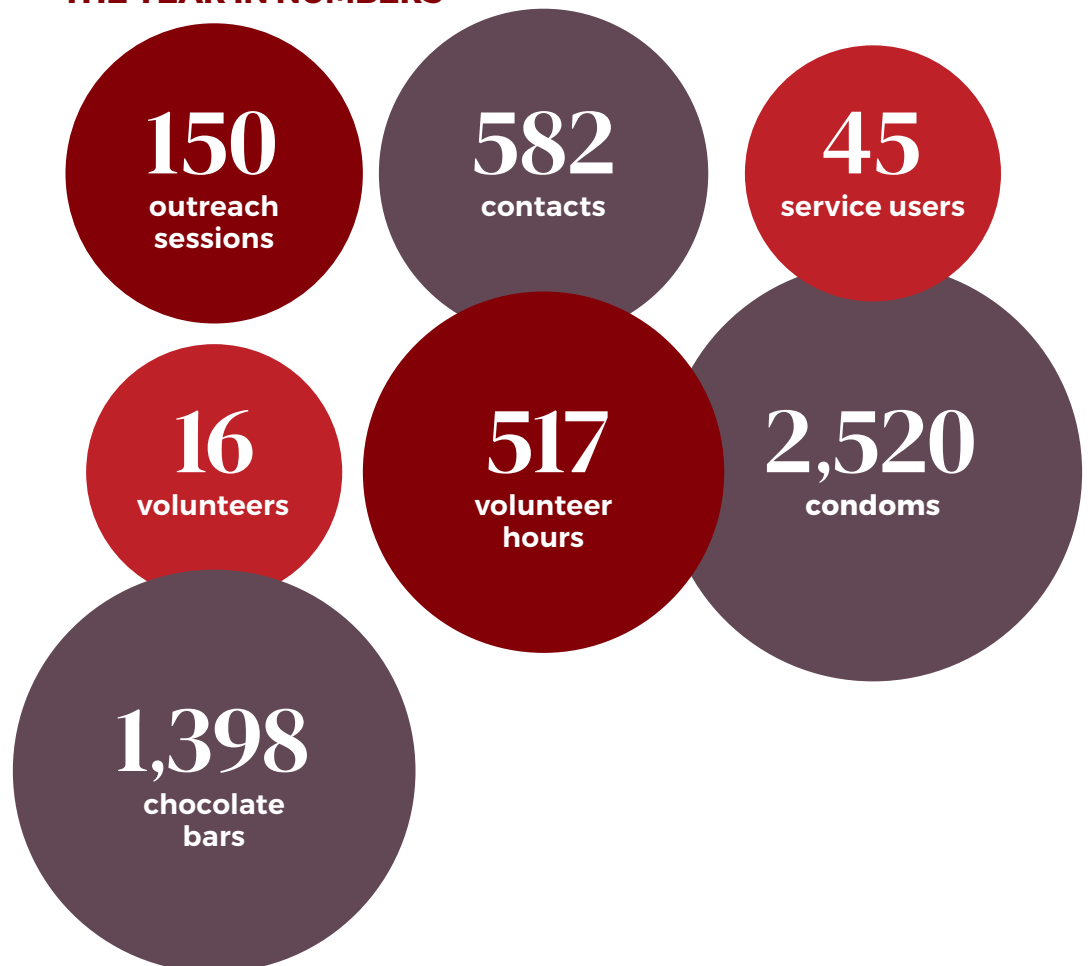
RAHAB

Restoring all hope and belief

Rahab is part of the Mustard Tree Foundation (MTF) where we are passionate that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

We do this through our Chaplaincy outreach where members of our volunteer team are out four or five nights a week. The purpose of this outreach is to make contact, and build relationships with the women so they know they can ask us for help. The team does not judge, we listen, support and offer the help we can either directly or through our network of partners.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS





The number of Chaplaincy outreach opportunities **increased by 15%** on last year to **150** which, in turn, meant that we made more contacts with the women (a contact is defined as having chat).

In May and June, we experienced a significant increase in the number of women sex-working. We encountered women who had stopped sex-working a while ago and had then re-started; and made new contacts with new women we had not seen out before.. We believe this was due to the significant increase in the cost of living as the women were sharing with us their concerns. Some women continued through the rest of the year with others coming out only when they need to pay a bill or cover their rent.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The Outreach team from the Florey clinic (Royal Berkshire Hospital's Sexual Healthcare Clinic) now join us once a month to provide the women with testing kits and advice.

Our work outside of the Chaplaincy evenings includes referrals to other organisations such as The Cow Shed to provide the women with essentials such as clothes, bedding and towels, and CommuniCare for financial and benefits advice on their situation. An example of this is D who was homeless for a few months and once she was able to rent a new flat, the Cow Shed helped her with new clothes, curtains, bedding and a Noah Box (a parcel containing kitchen items).

Belief

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Please hold the women in your prayers. Each one of them is loved and cherished by God and each one faces significant barriers or disadvantages to be able to thrive.

The women live chaotic lives and are often in danger. Earlier in the year, Rahab formed part of a group of specialist organisations who came together to support one of the women to leave Reading as her life was at risk. Poor mental and physical health linked to drug and alcohol addiction is another challenge faced by the women, sadly, one of whom died this year aged just 37.

There is also hope in the work that we do. Hope that the women will move away from sex-work and thrive in a life free of addiction, poverty and deprivation. We know that every drink or snack given out means something to them; and they know that there is a group of people caring for them and that they are loved as we are loved by God. One woman told a volunteer that we always do what we say that we will do and no matter how small a task it is for us, it means so much more to them.

We give thanks for the amazing team of volunteers who are out in all weathers to help come alongside the women. God is at work on the streets of Reading.



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