



RE-THINK RE-USE RE-GENERATE

PRESS RELEASE

1st November 2007

SOFA So Good: Helping the homeless into work

Bristol based charity SOFA Project, who are well known for providing affordable furniture solutions sourced from reuse, are now working together with Business Action on Homelessness (BAOH) to help people in need secure work experience to gain employment. Already, after only 6 weeks the partnership is creating a positive impact in the community.

In 2006, REVAMP, the Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) re-use and recycling subsidiary of SOFA Project, was set up to provide assistance to local authorities, residential and business communities to meet the demands of new legislation on Landfill Reduction Targets and WEEE. The depot, based in Days Lane in St Phillips, sorts electrical items (fridges, freezers, fridge/freezers, washing machines, cookers microwaves etc.) which have been sourced from local businesses, community donors, organisations like Center Parcs, DIXONS, and manufacturers like Baumatic and BEKO, into items that can be diverted for re-use (and sold in the SOFA Project shop), and those to be sent on for dismantling and recycling.

“Working with BAOH is a great help to SOFA Project” says Director Julian Williams. “With over 8,800 items coming into us in a year, our workshop is now a very busy place and if we can provide experience in the workplace and at the same time have an extra pair of hands to help with the workload then it benefits everyone” says Julian Williams.

Julie Jones from Business Action on Homelessness, part of the business led charity Business in the Community, was delighted that The SOFA Project had got involved:



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"SOFA Project only began working with us in September and we've already had a great result with the first work placement. Our client volunteered at the REVAMP site and really enjoyed his time there. He felt more confident and motivated after just two weeks and was determined to use that experience to find permanent work. We are now really pleased that he has now gone onto secure employment with a local employer."



About the programme:

Business Action on Homelessness (BAOH) is a partnership between leading business, homelessness agencies and the Government. It aims to break the cycle of no job, no home, no job by equipping homeless people and those at risk of homelessness with the skills to gain and sustain employment. BAOH provides a programme of training, work placements and post placement support.



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For information on BAH contact: Julie Jones, Business in the Community: 0117 972 2111.

For more information on work placements at Sofa Project contact Director Julian Williams on 0117 954 3577.

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