

Case Study – Evergreen

Amount Granted: £ 5,000 (Grassroots Birmingham) Date Completed: November 2009

The Project:

Evergreen is a Chinese women's support group for women affected by domestic violence. The group aims to provide training to support women in the process of rebuilding their lives. Regular group meetings help develop their confidence and leadership skills. Evergreen also provides homework support for their children. The funding covered the costs of room hire for workshops which equip the women with new skills to improve their chances of gaining employment. By providing a safe group environment the women were able to support each other and share experiences.



Total number of Beneficiaries: 50 women

Area of Benefit: Central Birmingham

Why was the project needed?

The need for this work is imperative as the group is still growing in numbers. Once the women join Evergreen and see other women who have gone through the same situations developing themselves and rebuilding their lives, they wish to do the same.

One of my clients is Chinese woman married to a British man with a young daughter. Her husband threatened to kill her and they escaped from the family home and settled at a crisis centre. She felt very lonely and distressed. She had no confidence to move forward while having to start a new life in a new area.



The difference the project has made:

The woman and her daughter joined Evergreen. Her daughter comes to our culture class and the mother joins in with the Saturday gatherings to provide support for our members in addition to utilising our training workshops. She and other women involved in this project have gained the confidence to enrol at a college and study towards achieving their career aspirations. We provide our members with the tools to go out into the world of work and offer suit donations alongside our employment programmes.

Quote:

"I am glad I have found Evergreen at my most difficult time. The help, confidence building sessions and support have opened a door for me. Without your help, I don't think I would have had this second chance."

(A victim of domestic violence, now starting a new life and a career)

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