

## Fresh Start Edinburgh

In 1999, Fresh Start was set up by the Edinburgh churches as their contribution to the millennium, to support the resettlement in the community of people who have been homeless.

Scottish Churches Housing Action helped Fresh Start to set up. CHIP assisted in bringing Churches together, was part of the steering group for two years and looked for funding to allow Fresh Start to get started.

Fresh Start began by delivering **starter packs** to people moving into their new tenancy after being homeless. Since its creation Fresh Start has grown considerably. In addition to providing 6,500 packs a year, its dynamic team developed new services strengthening the resettlement of people who have experienced homelessness.

Fresh Start now offers **befriending** as well as the **hit squad** service. The hit squad is an original initiative where the person moving into a new tenancy will be able to redecorate their flat with the help of a dedicated team of Fresh Start volunteers.

Fresh Start is adopting a new approach to its work by involving people who have experienced homelessness in their team. They offer placements and work opportunities for up to 9 months.

Fresh Start works with a team of 80 volunteers, some of whom have experienced homelessness, and others from Edinburgh churches.

Fresh Start always needs donations and more volunteers.

If you are interested in contributing to their work please contact **Ian McFadyen** on 0131 476 4518 or [ian@freshstartweb.org](mailto:ian@freshstartweb.org)



Left to right: volunteers May, Min and Eleanor