

RUSSELL BRAND DOCUMENTARY INSPIRES SUPPORT FOR CHARITY THAT HELPED HIM

The documentary “Russell Brand: Addiction to Recovery” which aired last night and details the journey for Russell Brand from being a heroin addict into abstinence based recovery, has resulted in an incredible donation for the Suffolk based rehab charity which he credits with turning his life around.

Russell Brand attended Focus12, the Bury St Edmunds abstinence based alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre, in 2003 and is now a patron of the charity, describing Focus 12 as “a really excellent example of a small cost effective rehab that can help people change in dramatic ways”. Brand counts Chip Somers, the CEO of Focus12, as one of his closest associates, and asked him not just to appear on the documentary, but also to support him when he gave evidence to a Home Affairs Select Committee in Parliament earlier this year and to join him on Newsnight discussing abstinence based treatment last week.

Since the documentary was aired last night on BBC3, Focus12, who has faced well documented financial difficulties, has received many calls and messages of support, most significantly a donation from a local company, Chevington Finance and Leasing, who have agreed a package of support worth £106,000 over the next four years.

Chip Somers, CEO of Focus12 said: “Russell’s documentary and his work this year to raise the profile of abstinence based recovery has got people talking about addiction in a different way, and made them realise that there is a viable alternative to simply giving up on addicts, or parking them on methadone. We are blown away by the generosity of Chevington – this financial support will make a huge difference to us as a charity and will certainly mean we can continue to stay open and help those who need us for longer. Raising funds for a recovery charity has never been harder than it is at present, every day is literally a struggle to keep afloat and we are very grateful to Clive and Debbie for their intervention.”

Clive Morris, Managing Director of Chevington Finance and Leasing Limited added: “My wife and I were incredibly touched by last night’s documentary, which inspired us to endorse the local treatment centre Focus 12, and we have today agreed funding assistance for the charity of £106,000.00 over the next 4 years.

“We believe that as a successful, responsible and reliable company we have a duty to help local charities survive this recession and the work that Chip Somers and his team do is fantastic and we fully endorse their abstinence based programme and have seen what a difference it makes to people’s lives. We would like to think that other businesses were similarly touched and would consider supporting this very worthwhile charity, either financially or by integrating ex-clients back in to the work place as Chevington Finance & Leasing Ltd have done in the past and intend to carry on doing in the future. We have found the people we have employed who have been through the program have been a major asset to our business, and a real credit to Focus12.

“On a personal level we glean great satisfaction from our involvement with Focus12 and find the work they do quite inspirational and were pleasantly surprised that quaint little Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, has this national treasure. As long as our business continues to thrive, we will continue to support Focus12.”