

the Story OF THE
WhiteCHApel
MISSION

*"There's a misperception that anyone can become homeless.
It doesn't happen. You might become houseless, but homeless
is a state of mind where you believe no one wants you."*

TONY MILLER: DIRECTOR OF THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

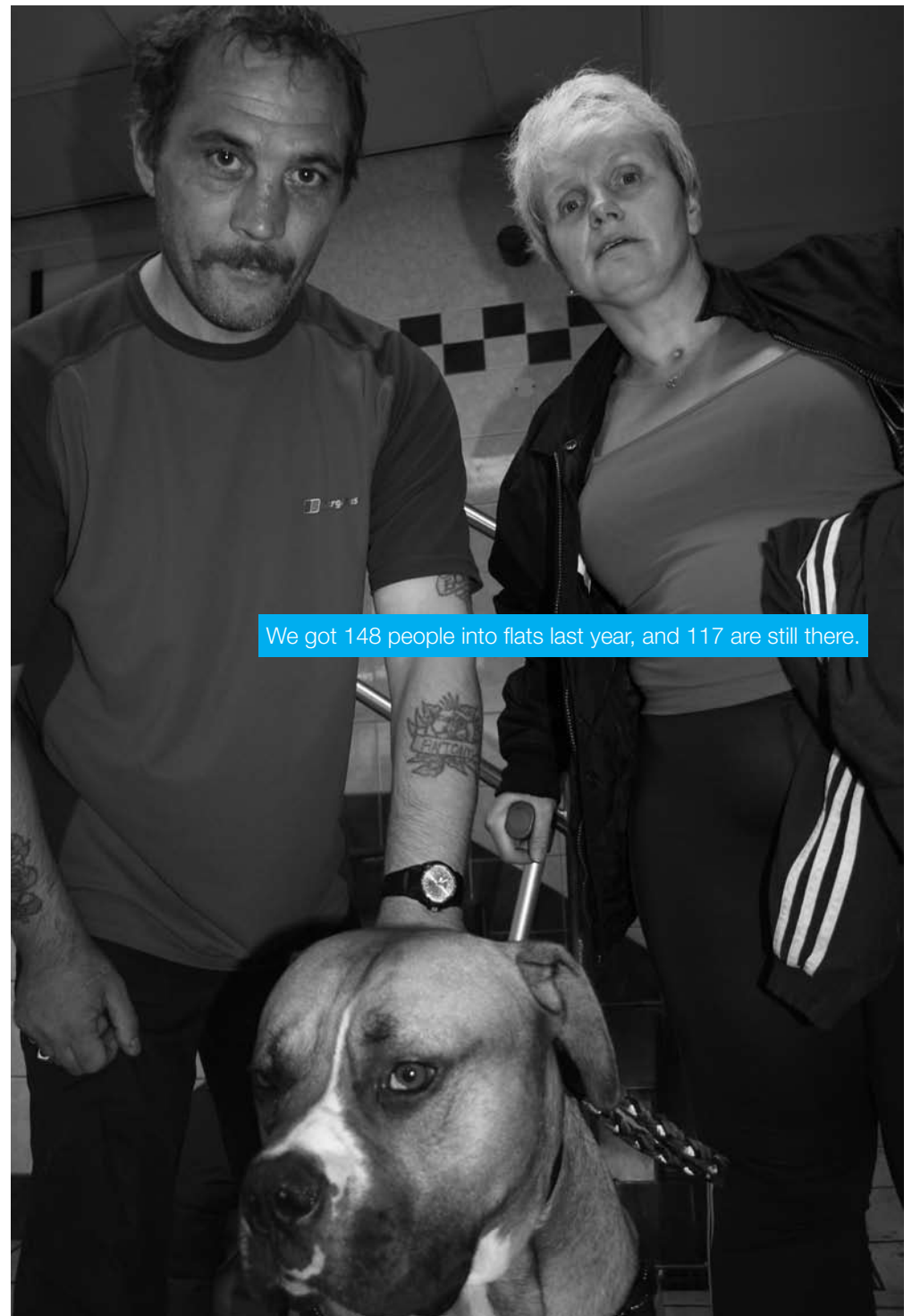


The Whitechapel Mission in east London offers a genuine welcome and practical support to the poor and homeless every day of the year. It's been going since 1876, and has a reputation for dealing with desperate cases with warmth and dynamism.

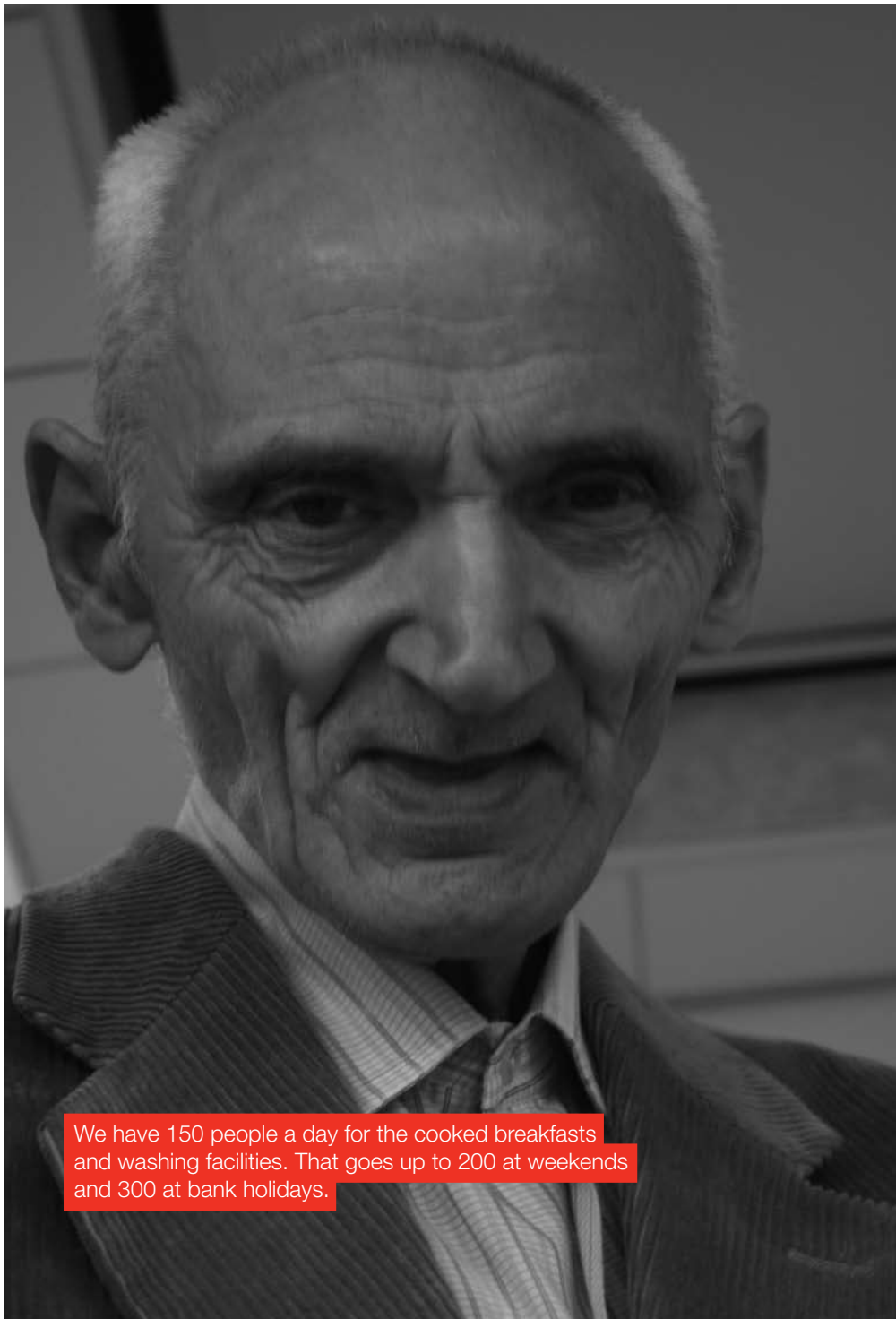


OUR PROMISE:

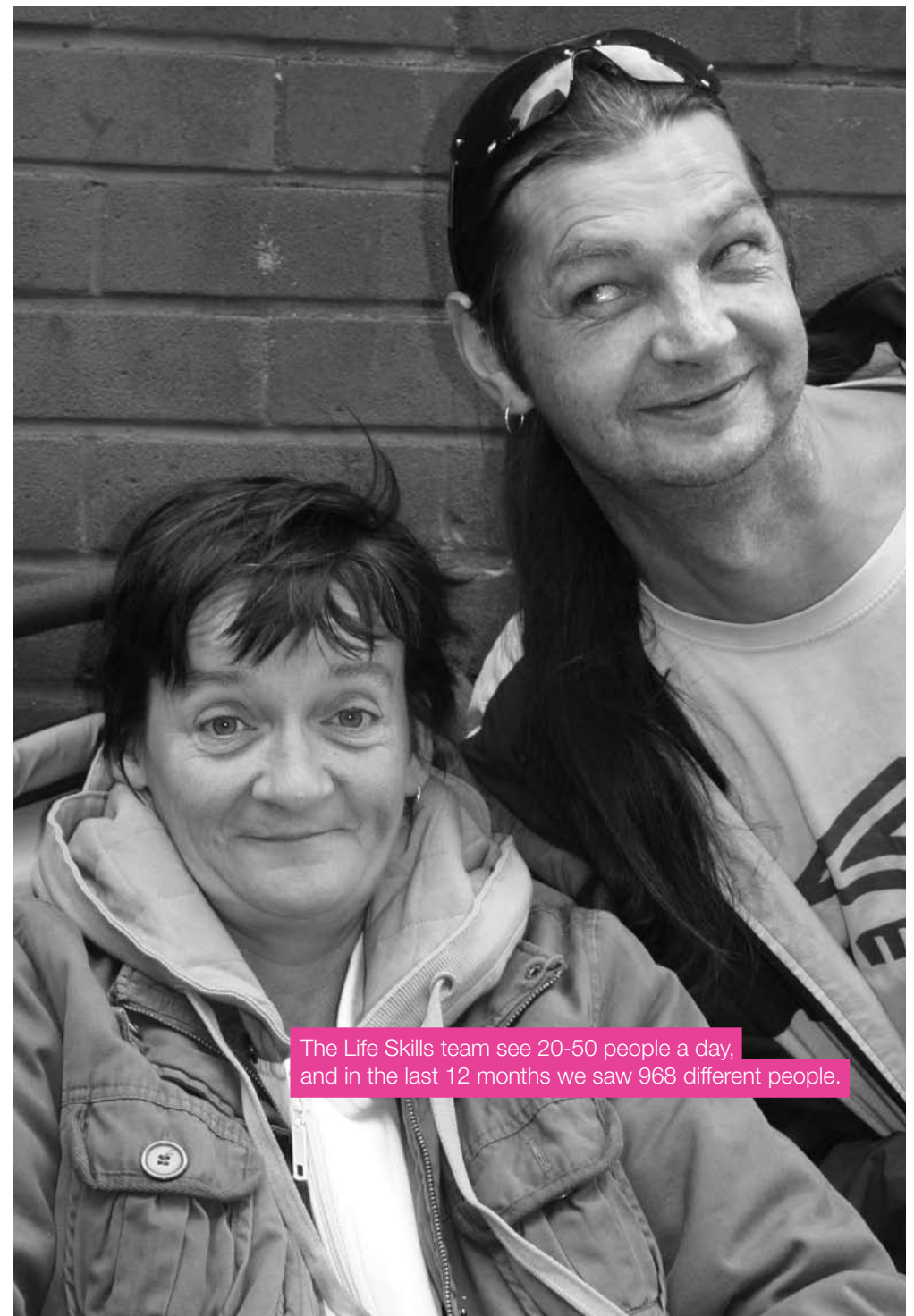
We promise that whatever mess your life maybe in, whomever else may have let you down, at 6am tomorrow morning our doors will open and you will receive a warm welcome. We will not bar you or exclude you. If your behaviour is not acceptable you will be asked to leave, but will be welcome back the next day.



We got 148 people into flats last year, and 117 are still there.



We have 150 people a day for the cooked breakfasts and washing facilities. That goes up to 200 at weekends and 300 at bank holidays.



The Life Skills team see 20-50 people a day, and in the last 12 months we saw 968 different people.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION'S WORK IS SPLIT INTO TWO:

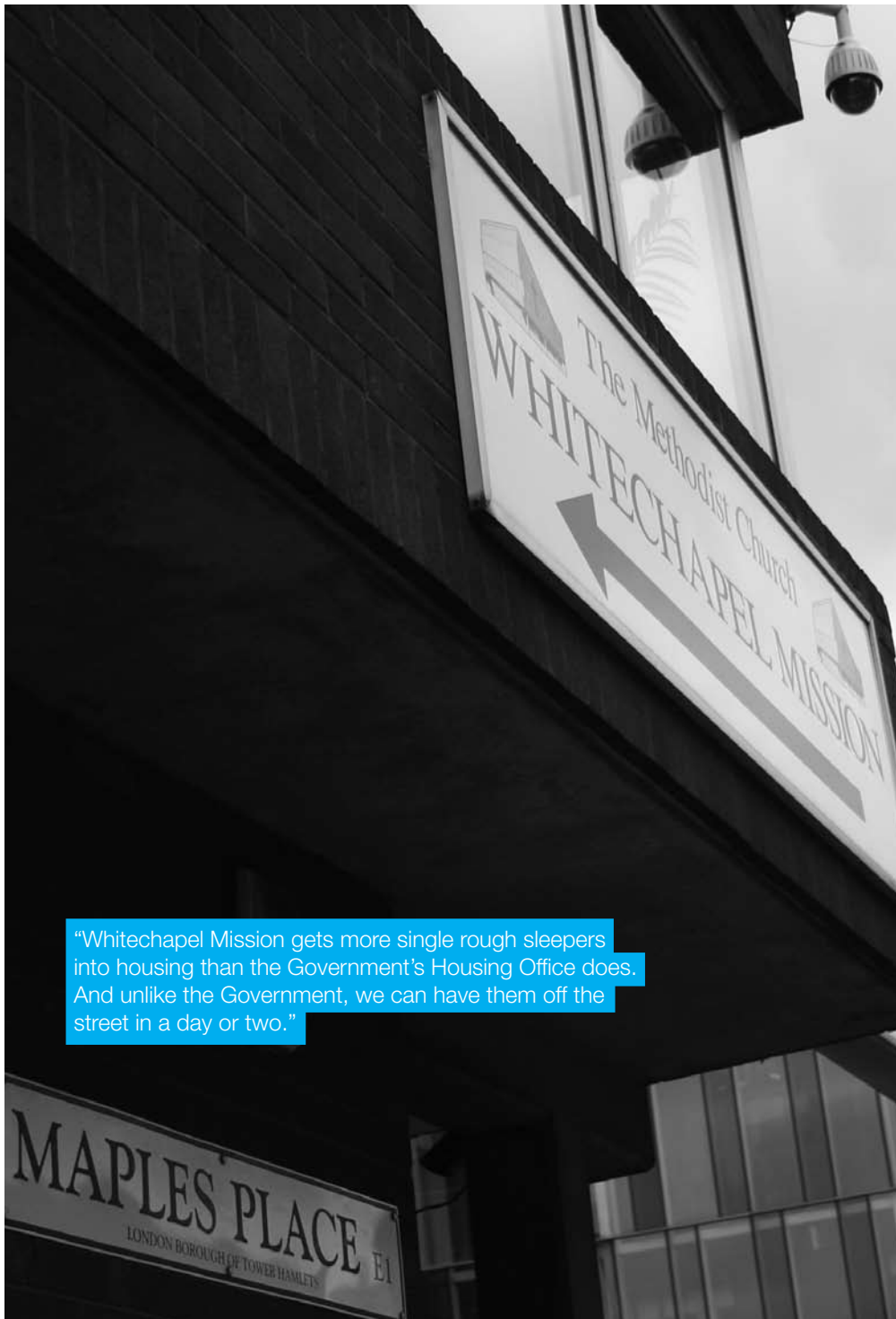
There's the 'band aid' work, which happens for five hours every morning when the Mission opens for breakfast. This is where people can get a meal, a wash and a shave, and can stock up on clean clothing.

In addition there is the Life Skills Centre. This is where we support people with daily problems. Increasingly, the people coming to us are in their teens and early 20s, are ex-servicemen or non-English speaking immigrants.

"We help them make phone calls to the authorities, sort out discrepancies over bills or other financial issues."

Many of our individuals can't claim benefits because they can't cope with the system, or with keeping appointments. Instead, we bring officials here from social benefits, so that they can meet our clients face to face in the Life Skills Centre. The same goes for chiropodists, doctors and other services. And we set up the kind of infrastructure that a person needs to be able to look for accommodation and work, and to contact their family. So we'll purchase someone's birth certificate for them. We offer a secure postal address and an email address. We'll also sort out a secure personal landline phone number, with their own voice mail message. A landline tells the outside world that you're stable.





“Whitechapel Mission gets more single rough sleepers into housing than the Government’s Housing Office does. And unlike the Government, we can have them off the street in a day or two.”



There isn't enough Government housing stock for single men, so we take another route. We go straight to a private landlord, and guarantee a five-year rental, which suits them. We vet the tenant, who then gets his housing benefit paid to us.

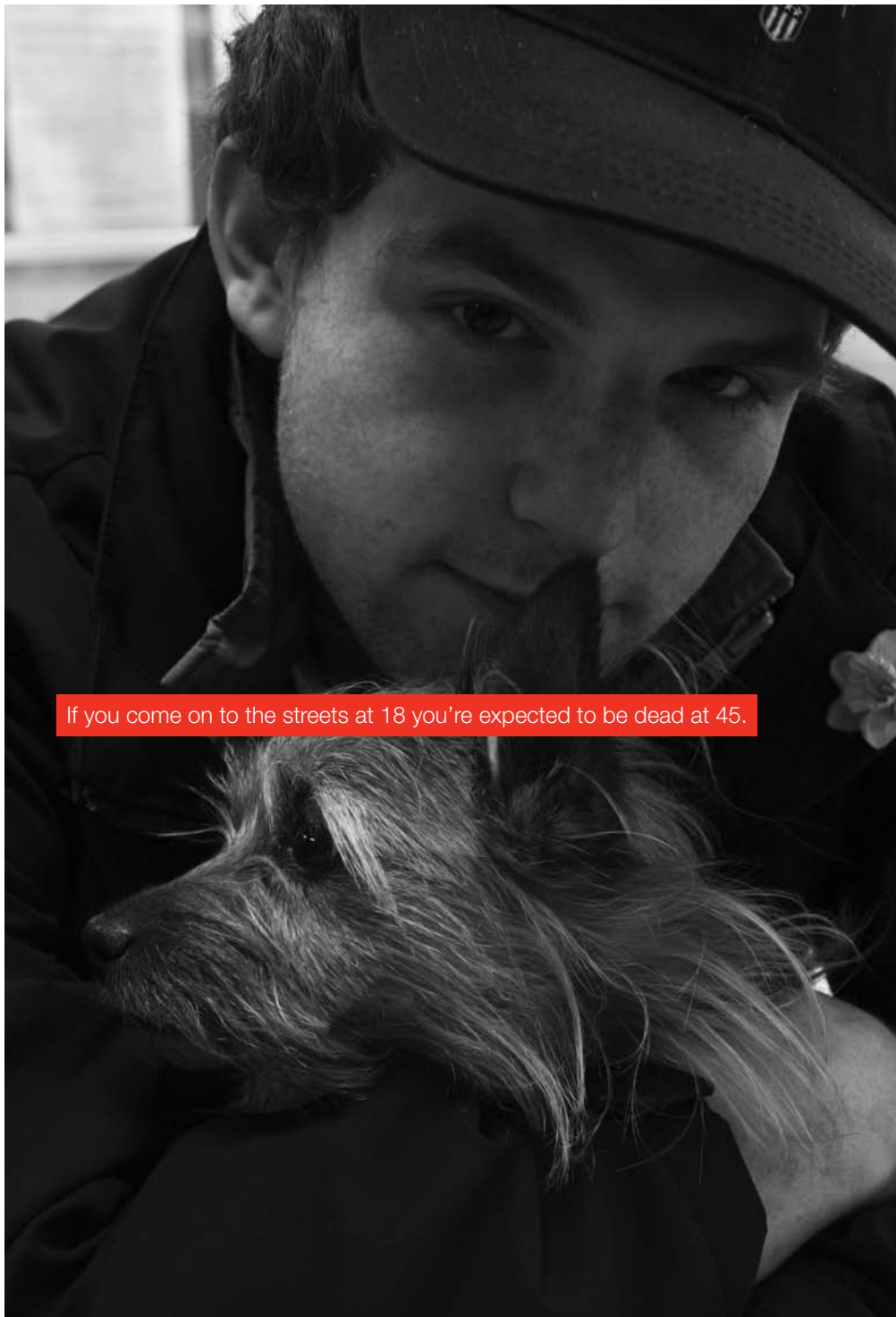


Less than 25% of homeless people have drink or drug problems.



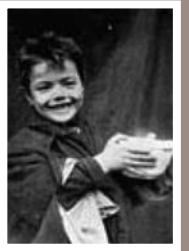
FUNDING

A third of our funding comes from our building, meaning the rent we get from our tenants in the shops and flats here. A small amount comes from livery companies and city corporations. Most funding comes from private donations.



If you come on to the streets at 18 you're expected to be dead at 45.

The Whitechapel Mission has been caring for the poor and homeless since 1876. During that time seven dedicated leaders have ensured that the Whitechapel Mission continues to deal with the changing face of homelessness in London.



From 1981 to the present day, the Whitechapel Mission has been under the direction and leadership of Tony Miller and his wife Sue, who relentlessly offer guidance and support to the most vulnerable members of our society.

There are many ways to help the Whitechapel Mission; donating money, clothing and everyday provisions; and through volunteering and fund raising. If you are interested in helping further please go to the website for more information. www.whitechapel.org.uk

The Whitechapel Mission would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and supported this project.

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If you know other people who would be interested in receiving this booklet please let the us know. Contact: tmiller@whitechapel.org.uk

