

# EXAMPLES OF CARE FIRST

Being very effective with immediate care towards urgent needs:  
fresh drinking water, having a home and elderly care.

Louis Bohtlingk

## RYAN HRELJAC

How the 6 year old Ryan changed the world together with his penpal, Jimmy to provide fresh drinking water for all.



Shocked by the fact that children his own age had to walk for hours every day to get water, Ryan wanted to make a difference. With the help of his family and community, he started Ryan's Well in 2001, dedicated to providing clean water to communities around the world. They have now brought clean water to 1,402,006 people in 16 developing countries. Ryan collaborates with his pen pal, Jimmy, from Uganda. Their dream is clean water for everyone on Earth.

[www.ryanswell.ca](http://www.ryanswell.ca)

## SCOTT HARRISON

After a decade of indulging his darkest vices as a nightclub promoter, Scott declared spiritual, moral, and emotional bankruptcy. He spent two years on a hospital ship off the coast of Liberia, saw the effects of drinking dirty water, and came back to New York City on a mission. He said in early 2023: "771 million people lack basic access to clean and safe drinking water. We are on a mission to change that. Today, more than one million people have made it their mission too. We provide water to 17 million people in 29 countries."

[www.charitywater.org](http://www.charitywater.org)



## CAITHNESS CARE WEB

Walking into the Community Hall in Keiss one morning different local organisations were sharing their work. I was struck by how many were providing immediate care in their services without the people needing to wait for help. I spoke with some of them, and we agreed that care is the way forward to create the kind of world in which we wish to live.

I was impressed by many, but mention just one called "Telecare." It assists anyone, especially older and disabled people, when they have an accident at home to get help at the touch of a button on a pendant or base unit anytime of day or night. A telecare alarm gives people the freedom to live their life, remain independent and safe in the knowledge that they can call for help whenever they have the need. Beautiful!



## HOUSING FIRST SINCE 1985

Finland's largest national non-profit landlord.

## HY-SÄÄTIÖ (Y-FOUNDATION)

Y-Säätiö, Finland's largest national non-profit landlord. They promote social justice by providing affordable rental housing. They own over 18,500 homes in nearly 60 locations. They are applying the **Housing First model**.

Resolving homelessness traditionally is being tackled using a staircase model: You move through different stages of temporary accommodation as you get your life back on track. An apartment is the ultimate reward.

"It was clear to everyone that the old system wasn't working; we needed radical change," says Juha Kaakinen CEO of Y-Säätiö. "You don't need to solve your problems before you get a home. Instead, a home should be

the secure foundation that makes it easier to solve your problems."

Finland is the one of the few European Union countries where the number of homeless people is significantly decreasing. They are aiming to end it by 2027. Social services assign rental homes first, then issues like mental health and substance abuse are treated second.

Prince William in the UK launched **Homewards** a five-year programme aiming to end homelessness inspired by Finland's excellent record.

[www.ysaatio.fi/en/](http://www.ysaatio.fi/en/)  
[www.homewards.org.uk](http://www.homewards.org.uk)