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Food Bank Christmas Special!



The Food Bank

Feeding the hungry in Milton Keynes

Dear Supporter,

This edition of our News Letter is a Christmas Special to get you ready for the festive season!

We have details of our first ever Christmas Fayre which is taking place on Saturday 12th November, where you can start your Christmas Shopping early.



It also launches our 2011 Christmas Hamper Programme and Goodie Bag campaigns which I know many people look forward to taking part in each year. So please do have a read and see how you can get involved!

We also have Russell Rose running the Bedford Half Marathon on 11th December to raise money for The Food Bank, so please support him by sponsoring Russell by texting 70070 with the code FOOD85 £x (x being the amount to donate) or via his Just Giving site @

<http://www.justgiving.com/RR-bedhalf>

Thank you to everyone who voted for us in the NatWest CommunityForce Initiative. The voting is now closed and we are anxiously waiting to see if we were in the top 3 in our region to win the £6000 - I will keep you posted!

Thanks also to everyone who donated during the Harvest Festival period. It certainly looks like we have had a bumper harvest but again, I will let you know the final figures once the counting is completed and the stock sheets input.

Thank you for your continued support - together we really can make a difference...

Sue Wall
Project Manager



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If you would like to join our mailing list then please click on the box below and send me your details - it will be great to have you on board!

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

URGENT FOOD SUPPLIES REQUIRED !!!

Please buy an item from the list below. The items shown in **red** are currently most urgent:

- Baked Beans
- **Long Life Juice**
- **Long Life Milk**
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tea Bags
- Dried Rice & Pasta
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Spaghetti
- **Tinned Rice Pud.**
- Biscuits
- Breakfast Cereal

Raise funds whilst you Christmas Shop On Line!



Will you be shopping on line for your Christmas Presents?

Did you know you can raise funds for free just by shopping on-line via

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/thefoodbank

easyfundraising is a shopping directory, listing some of your favourite online stores including Interflora, Argos, Next, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, HMV and over 2000 others. Just use the links on the **easyfundraising** site whenever you shop online, and at no extra cost to you, The Food Bank will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple!

It's completely **FREE** to register and you won't pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the **easyfundraising** site. In fact you can even **SAVE MONEY** as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising.

If you shop online anyway, then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/thefoodbank and when you register, select The Food Bank - Into The Community as the organisation you wish to support.

Go on - give it a try!

- Pasta Sauce
- Soup
- Sugar
- **Jam**
- Carrier Bags

Your food donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

9 Hollin Lane, Stacey Bushes

Weekday mornings 9.30am - 1pm (except Thursdays)
Tel: 01908 322800

Milton Keynes Christian Centre,

Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook.
Weekdays 9 - 4pm

Please call 01908 322800 for alternative times if necessary.

Thanks for your help - every item makes a massive difference.

Quick Links

[The Food Bank Website](#)
[Just Giving - General Donation](#)
[easyfundraising](#)

Christmas Hamper Campaign

This year, The Food Bank is planning to repeat its Christmas Hamper Project, with the creation of a minimum of 50 Christmas Hampers for families who our network of referral agencies know will be struggling over the festive period.

The project will be co-ordinated by Chris Hicken and all contact will be via Chris on the details given below.

The project will be run in a slightly different way this year to overcome many of the issues we experienced last year when it came to trying to deliver the hampers.

This difference will mean that we will not expect you to deliver the hamper directly to the family, but to deliver it to our Stacey Bushes warehouse by **midday Friday 9th December** for our onward



delivery to the referring agent.

The referring agent will be responsible for ensuring your nominated family receives their hamper in time for Christmas.

Should you wish to take part in this year's project to make Christmas Special, then please e-mail Chris Hicken via fbch2011_mkcc@btinternet.com and let him know what size family you would like to support:

- o Small - (up to 3 people)
- o Medium - (4 - 6 people)
- o Large - (7 people or more)

You will receive your "Hamper Family" details from Chris via e-mail by **Sunday 20th November**.

All hampers must be delivered to Unit 9 Hollin Lane, Stacey Bushes, Milton Keynes MK12 6HT by **midday Friday 9th December**.

Deliveries can be made weekday mornings between 9.30 - midday except Thursdays. For other times please call 01908 322800 first to ensure the warehouse is manned.

Boxes must be clearly marked with your Hamper Number - if Hamper is in more than one box, please mark as 1A, 1B, 1C etc.

Each hamper must contain the following items for the size of family you are feeding:

- * Christmas Pudding
- * Christmas Cake
- * Mince Pies & Biscuits
- * Pringles or Crisps
- * Sweets or Chocolates
- * Custard
- * Christmas Crackers
- * Tinned Christmas Meat (e.g. Ham, Turkey etc)
- * Tinned Potatoes & Tinned Veg
- * Gravy Granules & Stuffing
- * Part Baked Bread
- * Long Life Milk & Long Life Fruit Juice
- * Teabags (40)
- * Sugar
- * Fizzy Drink
- * A small gift for each of the family wrapped, with their name on it.

If you have any questions about this years Hamper Campaign please call **Chris direct on 07535 633 753**.

Many thanks in advance - together we really can make Christmas special.

Christmas Goodie Bags

If a Christmas Hamper is a little out of your reach, but you would still like to help make Christmas Special for local people who will be struggling, why not help us with items for our Christmas Goodie Bags!

Items for our Christmas Goodie Bags are shown in the list below, or you could download our small [handout](#) and encourage your family, friends or work colleagues to help too! All we ask is that you get your donations to us by Friday 9th December and that the items are in date until 25th December!



- Mini Christmas Puddings
- Christmas Slices
- Mince Pies
- Christmas Biscuits
- Pringles or Crisps
- Sweets or Chocolates
- Part Baked Bread
- Jam
- Fizzy Drinks

We will make up special Christmas Goodie Bags to go out to families or individuals who will not be receiving a hamper, but who are referred to The Food Bank in the two weeks prior to Christmas.

Food Bank Christmas Fayre - Saturday November 12th



The Food Bank is holding it's first ever Christmas Fayre on

Saturday 12th November

Indoors

at

Milton Keynes Christian Centre

Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook (plenty of free parking)

from 11am - 4pm

Many interesting stalls and activities including:

Jewellery, Cosmetics, RSPCA - Bird Boxes etc, Craft Stall

Gifts, Accessories and Toiletries

Christmas wrapping and Gift Boxes

Phoenix Cards, Hand Painted Bags & T-Shirts

Forever Living Products

Home Made Jams, Jellies and Honey & Cup Cakes

Santa's Grotto, Face Painting, Name the Horse & Bunny
The lolly game - and much much more!

Please do come along and start your Christmas shopping early!

Please also bring an item from our shopping list to donate!

Volunteering Opportunities

Friday 4th November - Supermarket Collection at ASDA 10am - 4.30pm. Could you spare a couple of hours to hand out shopping lists to customers as they enter the store and invite them to buy an extra item to donate as they leave?

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th December - Supermarket collection at Co-op Woburn Sands 10am - 3.30pm. Could you spare a couple of hours to hand out shopping lists to customers as they enter the store and invite them to buy an extra item to donate as they leave?

If you can spare a couple of hours to help us on any of these dates then please either drop me an [e-mail](#) or give me a call on 01908 322800

Without your help we really can't run these events which are so important to raising awareness and boosting our stocks.

Raise money for The Food Bank from your Unwanted Items!



Can you help The Food Bank with any of the following items that you no longer need?

- Clothing, shoes, belts or handbags
- Household textiles such as sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers, towels (NOT Duvets or Pillows)
- DVD's or CD's (NOT videos)
- Books

Your unwanted items could help us to raise much needed funds to support our service!

If you can help, please either drop them off at our warehouse during our normal opening times or alternatively please give us a call on 01908 322800.

The FOOD BANK 1000



Will you spare just **£3 per month?**

The Food Bank needs 1000 people to donate just **10p per day** to ensure its sustainability.

So why not [sign](#) up now and see the difference your **£3** can make to our local community.

Business Buddies

The Food Bank is keen to partner with local businesses that are interested in making a positive contribution to their local community.

Our Business Buddies initiative enables companies of all sizes to make a regular monthly contribution (minimum £50 per month) to support the work of The Food Bank.

We can create opportunities for groups of staff to come along for a "team building" event at our warehouse, where they can get some hands on experience of our work and see what a difference their companies support is really making to the community.

Businesses could also benefit from having their logo on our Mercedes Benz Sprinter vehicle which is regularly used around Milton Keynes and the surrounding villages - what a great advert!



Sign up today by completing our [Business Buddies](#) form or go to the following link:

<http://www.justgiving.com/thefoodbank/donate>

Together we really can make a difference.....

I do hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Please try to forward this news letter to at least one colleague, friend or family member who may be interested in our work, as we really do need as many supporters as possible.

If you have any feedback on this edition then please e-mail me at the following address:
foodbank.sue@mkcc.org.uk

If you are not already actively involved either as a volunteer or donator, please act now, as together we really can make a difference.....

Thank you

Sue
01908 322800