

Donations of money

We have received funding from local authorities, the National Lottery, grant-making trusts, and national campaigns such as Comic Relief.

There is a constant need for more funds, especially as the major grant-makers are reluctant to provide some of our needs such as money for the rent of our store and workroom. Gifts of money from local groups are therefore very much appreciated.

Donations in kind

We invite donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and basic hygiene requisites from community groups, including churches and schools.

We are pleased to receive in-kind donations from local businesses, eg paper products, and hygiene products. We acknowledge them in our reports. We need empty A4 copier paper boxes, in which we make up many of the packs, and empty film pots for portions of shampoo etc.

If you have contacts and can help us secure such gifts, please let us know.

Special assistance

We support lone parents, teen mothers, and families with young children.

We have been asked to supply clothing and baby requisites. One much appreciated type of support is the provision of newly-knitted clothes for newborns (in "neutral" colours). If you or your family can knit cardigans, hats, mittens, booties or baby blankets/shawls, we can supply wool and buttons on request.

Contact may be made with:

Julia Rowlands
0161-761-5908



Emergency contact:
0161-764-1132 or
0161-724-5696

Children from a linked school undertaking publicity

There is more information at our website
www.porchboxes.org.uk

Annual Report and Accounts are published annually, lodged with the Charity Commission, and available from us at any time.

Gifts in-kind being received from a commercial sponsor



Volunteers at work in Porch Boxes store/workroom



Visit to Porch Room by the



Bishop of Manchester



issued 01/2013



Providing crisis packs for those in need

Porch Boxes

- links local people in crisis need
- to local people donating goods
- via local people providing voluntary service

Porch Boxes

- is registered charity 1089998
- works in the Greater Manchester Boroughs of Bury and Rochdale and surrounding areas
- draws local and national support for its work

Can you help us?

Can we help you?

Volunteers

We need volunteers to drive to collect goods and deliver made-up packs. We need people regularly to make up packs in our workroom in Radcliffe.

Volunteers will receive briefing on our policies for health and safety, confidentiality, security, etc. We can make available on request volunteer application forms and information packs.

We are pleased to consider offers as volunteers from groups including people needing work experience, or people with learning or other disabilities needing experience of, or assessment for, regular employment.

Our service

We use donated and purchased goods to make up “crisis packs”, each of which contains non-perishable food and toiletries for two days. We make these available to vulnerable individuals through referral agencies. Packs are assembled sometimes so as to be specific to men or women. Special needs arising on ethnic, health or religious or other grounds, or for very young children, can be addressed if we are informed.

Our assistance goes to people with needs, including

- lone parent families, or vulnerable or abused individuals in temporary housing or hostel accommodation,
- teen mothers in special need, eg without family support
- young people in need until longer term support arrangements, including budgeting skills, are in place,
- people in transition between in-care and community living,
- people sleeping rough
- people tackling illness, disability or addiction,
- families benefitting from an annual caravan-based holiday,
- people seeking asylum, and
- older people who have temporary needs or who live in poverty.

Referral agencies

We work only through referral agencies, rather than directly with vulnerable people.

Amongst agencies we recognise as appropriately making requests to us (“referral agencies”) are:

- health and social workers,
- family centres, Citizens Advice Bureaux, or support groups

- those running refuges, hostels, sheltered housing or blocks of flats for those with needs,
- charities supporting needy client groups, including Churches serving vulnerable people
- statutory agencies having knowledge of the needs (although our assistance cannot be used to replace statutory provision) including Social Services, Housing and NHS .

We can also provide foodstuffs and toiletries in other forms including

- starter hampers for those moving to their own accommodation (designed to last one week)
- street packs (needing no cooking)
- food to support agency catering activities, including soup runs
- special packs to your specification eg to support caravan holiday programmes, or Christmas meals

Referral agencies are invited to request packs for their clients, holding a small stock. Requests should be only for people who fall within the client groups we have specified and in the context that action is in hand to provide sustainable long term support. Our packs must not be used as payment to clients, nor instead of available contractual or statutory funding.