

# What's new at Hope Nottingham?



Update June 2020



June has been yet another very busy month at Hope Nottingham — responding to the challenges that have arisen due to COVID-19. However, thanks to the dedication of our volunteer teams, the hard work of staff, the support of our partner organisations and the generosity of our supporters and the public, we have been able to keep meeting the needs of people across Nottingham and beyond.

## Working together to deliver Hope

The enormous rise in demand we have seen, together with the need to deliver all our food parcels to home addresses (as opposed to people collecting them in person) has led to huge challenges for us and our partner food banks across Nottingham in getting food to people who desperately need it. Thankfully, we have been extraordinarily blessed over the last few months—a small army of volunteer drivers has stepped up to deliver well over 2000 much-needed food parcels to families right across Nottingham and Broxtowe.

We want to say a huge thank you to you all - we wouldn't have been able to operate without you. You've all been incredible.



We also owe a huge thanks to Acorn Windows and Central Shopfitters who have both kindly lent us their vans when ours was being fixed.

Back at Hope House, we have been truly blessed to have yet more volunteers (some new, some who have been with us a long time) who have been faithfully sorting food and packing parcels two shifts a day, five days a week for the last 12 weeks. Our food parcel packing area now runs more like a production line—enabling us to keep up with demand and turn around the large numbers of parcels ready for delivery. Again, your help and support has been invaluable. Thanks so much to you all.



Clockwise from top left: Julie and Zak, Richard and Helen from 124th Nottingham Scouts, and Sam - just a few of our wonderful volunteer drivers.



One of the truly heartening aspects of the last few months has been the way we have been able to work in partnership with so many people and organisations, in order to help others.

We have been delighted to be working more closely with The Arches who have set up a warehouse hub to store the vast amounts of food we're purchasing that we haven't got room for here at Hope House. The Arches team receive and sort the food we are buying from suppliers and their van team deliver it to our network of food banks who are working so hard across the city. As we have moved to purchasing bulk supplies from wholesalers and supermarkets, the quantity of stock we are dealing



with has increased dramatically. Their help has been invaluable in helping to cope with the increase in demand we have seen.

## Supporting local schools

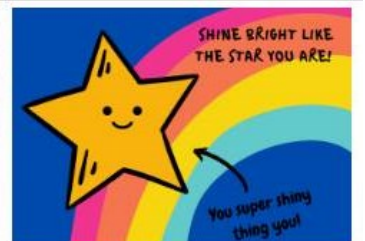
Over the last few months we have been working with local schools including Alderman White, Bramcote College, Nottingham Academy, Sneinton C of E Primary and William Booth Primary to provide fortnightly food parcels for families eligible for free school meals. To date, working together with Sneinton Foodbank, we have provided over 1000 food parcels for families of pupils who haven't been receiving free school meals due to schools being closed. Thanks to donations from The Mighty Creatives and others, we have also been able to supply art packs and stationery to some of these families who have been home-schooling.

## Thinking about the future

As the coronavirus guidelines start to be relaxed, we are starting to think about ways in which we can re-open some of the other services that we offer at Hope House such as Job Club, as well as looking at whether other food banks in our network could begin to re-open their doors whilst observing social distancing rules. This may help us reduce the number of deliveries we are making, and allow us to let people collect food parcels in person again. This is a complicated process and things won't be able to go 'back to normal' for some time but we are hopeful that we may be able to start resuming some of our activities relatively soon—albeit in a different way. We'll keep you updated as things move forward. Watch this space.

## Thanks to our volunteers

The first week in June was National Volunteer Week. Usually this means we like to hold our annual Volunteer Celebration events to recognise the amazing contribution all our volunteers make. However, this year due to current circumstances we were unable to do so. Instead, we have sent out thank you postcards and emails to as many of our volunteers (both those new to us over the last few months and those who are currently unable to attend) as we can. We hope you enjoyed receiving one—and please accept our apologies if we missed you out!





# A huge thank you for your amazing generosity

Throughout the last few months we have been amazed at the generosity we have received from so many individuals, groups, organisations and businesses. Here are just a few examples:



Totally Tapped and Totally Brewed have been collecting and delivering food donations from their delivery customers each week.

Starkey's Fruit of Southwell donated 20 cases of Bramley apple juice for our food parcels.

The Bangladeshi Community in Nottingham delivered £100 of food they had donated (pictured).



The Hygiene Bank have donated toiletries and sanitary products to distribute with our food parcels.

Nottingham Trent University PhD students donated fresh vegetables and herbs grown on their 'vertical farm' project.



In addition we have received countless other donations, too many to list. Each and every item given makes a huge difference. Thank you for your amazing generosity.

In addition to food donations, we have been so grateful for the incredible fundraising efforts that so many of our supporters have been undertaking whilst in lockdown. Special thanks go to:

Gabriel, who climbed the equivalent of Snowdon on 2nd May to raise money for foodbanks and raised £1,311!



Jason, who left his job at Nottingham Trent University in May was not able to arrange a 'farewell do' and so encouraged colleagues to donate to Hope Nottingham, raising over £1,000!

The Field family and the Tulley family who both ran sponsored family marathons as their daily exercise to raise money for Hope Nottingham between them raising over £2,500!

Bethany Tufnell cycled 26 lengths of her street for 26 days (not deterred by a broken toe!) to raise money for us here at Hope Nottingham and Keframa School in Uganda.



Nottingham University staff, Nottingham University Men's Football and 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts have all held online fundraising events.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who have donated or fundraised on our behalf.

If you are fundraising for us, we'd love to hear about it — your generosity encourages us so much. For details of how to donate, please visit our website:

[www.hope-nottingham.org.uk](http://www.hope-nottingham.org.uk)

## Even more thanks...



Thanks to all at Hegarty Care for raising £1000 during Mental Health Awareness week and supporting our work here at Hope Nottingham. Your support is massively appreciated.

Thanks also to Tamzin, Lou and Luke from Heart Church as well as volunteers from Cornerstone and Trent Vineyard for helping us start to get our building ready for reopening.



## Two's company helps to tackle loneliness

One of the hardest consequences of the lockdown in the last few months has been the impact of not being able to see friends, family and loved ones—particularly for those living alone or those who have been shielding. For many this has meant regular contact and conversation has become difficult or impossible—leading to an increased feeling of loneliness and isolation. As a response, we set up our Two's Company scheme—a telephone befriending service,



where volunteers call guests each week for a catch up and a chat. We currently have 32 people who are receiving regular calls from our volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested in being involved, do get in touch on 0115 7270047.

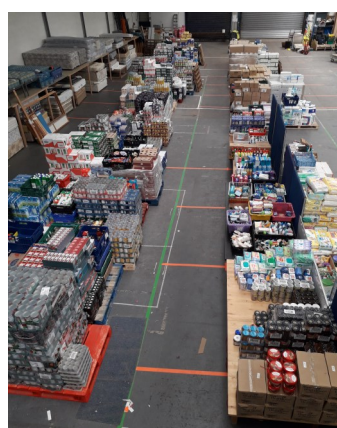
## Supporting people in need through Acts 435

Hope has been an advocate for the Acts 435 scheme for many years—supporting people in need to get small-scale financial help for a variety of reasons. Whilst most of the activities we usually run in our drop-in café have had to stop at present, we have been able to continue helping those in urgent need via the Acts 435 scheme. You can read more about how Acts 345 operates on their website here: <https://acts435.org.uk>

As we work to re-open more of our services, we hope we will be able to offer more support and signposting for people in need.

## Successful funding bid

Hope Nottingham has been successful in applying for £75,000 in funds from the government to fund food purchase. All of this will be used to ensure foodbanks across the greater Nottingham area are kept well supplied and able to provide for anyone in need. This fund will enable Hope to continue to work in partnership with the Arches at



Trent Vineyard who are using their warehouse to store the bulk food supplies. It has been a real joy to work in unity with Trent Vineyard as well as other churches and foodbanks.

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