

Open Hands

compassion in action

Newsletter
Aug/Sept 2020

**22,565
MEALS
PROVIDED SINCE
LOCKDOWN**



HELLO!

WE ARE SO ENCOURAGED BY YOUR SUPPORT

We love partnering with churches, organisations, businesses, and supporters, and believe we can make a real difference by working together to help the poor and needy of our city.

Between lockdown and July we have had the privilege of providing 1,372 bags of emergency food and 1,430 hot meals, we've given out emergency clothing and bedding, installed washing machines for families in need and helped to teach English to over 40 students online. Thank you to everyone who has donated, fundraised, set up a community drop-off point, volunteered and prayed for us – we can't do this without you!

STORIES WHO YOU HAVE HELPED

"Thank you for the food hampers you have provided for me and my son - believe me when I say I don't know how we would have coped without them. As a bonus, I am able to have a good chat with the team and I always walk away in a good mood. Knowing that you guys are praying for us is a beautiful thing. I speak for a lot of your guests - we are all very thankful. God bless."

– Food Hamper Guest

A NEW JOURNEY IN OUR FOOD PROJECT

We are excited to tell you that we were awarded £67,254 from The National Community Fund! This will support our work in providing emergency care & support to those in need this year.

Over £19,000 of this grant will be utilised to help us to expand the reach of our Food Store. We will be setting up a community food shop to help those struggling to make ends meet the opportunity to access a cheap and affordable supply of food. The shop will also help us to journey with our guests as they transition away from requiring free charity support, empowering each individual with the means to move towards independent living. We aim to open the shop later in the year so watch this space!



6 DEGREES IS IN, OUT & ONLINE!

This is a season of new ways of working! We are excited to say that we now offer ordering online; we'll have it ready for collection for the time you specify so you can make a quick getaway.

And even more exciting, we can now welcome you to dine in with us! Plus if you happen to drop in Mon, Tue or Wed you can enjoy 50% off courtesy of the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme!

The food and drinks are just as delicious on other days too! Why not drop by **Mon-Sat 9AM-3PM** (108 London Road, Leicester, LE2 0QS), or call 0116 319 0020 to reserve a table.



MOST WANTED DONATION

WE ARE IN NEED OF SMALL MEN'S TROUSERS

(CASUAL STYLE,
28-34 WAIST)



Our 'most wanted' donations can be dropped off at The Compassion Centre 1-5pm Tues & Thurs.

Head to our website at www.openhandsleicester.org.uk and click on the 'donate' tab to find out what else we are able to take at the moment. Please make sure to check our list before arriving as we won't be able to take other items.

Thank You!

PRAY FOR...

- **Those facing new financial challenges** – that those recently unemployed, homeless or newly struggling are able to find and access the emergency services and charity support they need.
- **An abundant harvest** – that our guests' hearts will be softened and that they will come to recognise and respond to their need of a Saviour.
- **Our new van driver technician** – that Jonathan will settle well into his new role in September and will be equipped and anointed for all that God has in store for the furniture project.
- **Our coffee shop** – for God to bless '6 Degrees' and enable the shop to financially sustain itself through this difficult time.

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN... YOUR WILL BE DONE"

FUNDRAISING



This summer, we ask for your help to raise funds to support our work with the poor. The 'Tour de Leicestershire' is our annual cycling sportive which usually attracts over 200 cyclists, raising lots of money for Open Hands. Due to a spanner in the works, we've had to cancel our ride this year and so invite you to set your own personal fundraising fitness challenge instead!

Together we aim to cycle, run, walk or row 8,000 miles in an effort to raise £8,000 for Open Hands! For more details, including a 20, 50 & 80 mile landmark challenge for our

regular event riders, head to our website, scroll down and click on our 'Tour de Leicestershire' logo.

Start raising funds by heading to www.justgiving.com/campaign/TourDeLeicestershire

& setting up your own fundraising page and let's see how many miles of difference we can make!

Website: www.openhandsleicester.org.uk / **email:** admin@openhandsleicester.org.uk