

Open Hands

compassion in action

Newsletter
June/July 2020



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.

It has been our privilege to keep our doors open and continue to provide emergency support to those in desperate need at this time. Whilst we haven't been able to welcome our guests into our centre we have still loved providing emergency food, toiletries and clothing on request. Our English classes have moved online and we're making plans to open up more of our services soon.

**20,000
MEALS
PROVIDED SINCE
LOCKDOWN**

STORIES WHO YOU HAVE HELPED

"A huge thank you to the team and for all that you are doing. We have been blessed with the supplies that were provided and it means so much. God has been so faithful and where I would have been worrying God has provided so that I can concentrate on recovering from this horrible illness that has wrecked my lungs. God's blessings upon you all."

– Food Hamper Guest

GENEROSITY THROUGH COVID-19

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of individuals and organisations who have helped us to keep our work going through this difficult time. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated and provided additional support, including the following:

- McDonald's Thurmaston • LUSH • Asda Oadby • St. Wilfrid's
- Co-op London Road & Fleckney • Travelodge • Iceland • Tesco
- Knighton Free Church • Sainsbury's London Road & Fosse Park
- Costa Wellingborough • Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service
- Clockwise Credit Union • Leicester Welfare Society • Screwfix
- Springfield Christian Fellowship • Rotary Club of Leicester
- Unite The Union • Severn Trent • KingsGate Community Church
- Hastings Direct & many other wonderful local supporters!

THANK YOU!

6 DEGREES IS BACK IN BUSINESS!

At the end of March we said a thank you and goodbye to the wonderful Hazel and welcomed in our brilliant new manager Simon (pictured). We had to close our shop for a short while due to lockdown but were pleased to be able to re-open our doors on 3rd June for a takeaway service. Why not come and say hello and enjoy our delicious drinks, cakes and sandwiches **9am-3pm Mon-Sat**. You can even pre-order ready for collect by calling: 0116 319 0020. We can't wait to serve you!



MOST WANTED DONATION

WE ARE IN NEED OF DEODORANT



To find out what else we are in need of head to our website www.openhandsleicester.org.uk and click on the 'donate' tab.

Essential food and toiletry donations can be dropped off Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-5pm at the Open Hands Compassion Centre or at your local Open Hands drop-off point. Apologies, we are not able to accept any other donation types at the moment. **Thank You!**

PRAY FOR...

- **Our new coffee shop manager** – that Simon will have the wisdom and vision to steer the shop through this next season and will be equipped for all that God has called him to
- **Open doors** – for access to our furniture warehouse to be re-instated, for our new building project plans to continue to advance and for the ground to be prepared ahead for us
- **Safety and shelter for our guests** – that those facing homelessness will find safe and secure accommodation and that all of our guests will be protected against any illness or harm
- **Open hearts** – that our guests will come to know that their help comes from God, that many will be open to receive prayer

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

VOLUNTEERING

We love our volunteers so it has been a strange few months to deliver our emergency food services with our staff and leadership teams throughout lockdown. We will always prioritise health and safety so thank you to all of our volunteers who have stayed home to protect themselves and their loved ones.

We are pleased to be able to enable a few of our volunteers to return as we safely manage social distancing and implement additional health and safety measures (including the setting up of new cleaning stations and zoned working areas). Thank you to those of you volunteering with us and we can't wait to see more new faces as soon as it is safe to do so!

