

Feeding Families

Feeding Families Newsletter June 2020



June 2020

Welcome!

As we move into the Summer, with the news and social media often feeling so bleak, we want our message to remain clear...

that **we are here to help our entire North East community through these difficult times**. We would like to share our positive news, and offer practical solutions for the current problems.

Our Covid 19 Progress

In April, we set up our Covid-19 response hubs. We reached out to a number of organisations who were creaking under the pressure of providing a whole range of services with little or no time to plan.

With the help of our local coordinators, and our fantastic volunteers, we have met the needs of every desperate household that has been referred to us. Food is delivered within 48 hours, and often within 1 day. This is an incredible achievement, from what amounted to a standing start. We are so proud of our dedicated teams, and they remain available to provide help for the foreseeable future:

Louisa Robinson: louisa@feedingfamilies.org.uk
Northumberland excluding Ponteland (NE postcodes)

Liz Humberston: liz@feedingfamilies.org.uk
Newcastle and North Tyneside plus Ponteland (NE postcodes)


Ros Hall: ros@feedingfamilies.org.uk
Gateshead, South Tyneside and south Tyne valley (NE postcodes)

Vicky Davison: vicky@feedingfamilies.org.uk
Consett, Stanley, Birtley and Chester-le-Street DH8, DH9, DH2, DH3

Charlotte Stafford: charlotte@feedingfamilies.org.uk
Sunderland, Washington and Houghton-le-Spring All SR postcodes, NE37, NE38, DH4, DH5

Debbie Richardson: debbie@feedingfamilies.org.uk
South Durham and Darlington DL1-DL5, DL12-17, DH1, DH6, DH7

Sarah Lish: sarahlish@feedingfamilies.org.uk
Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool All TS postcodes





Each coordinator has a team so if you've not signed up yet you can do so [here](#):

We are currently checking with all of our volunteers to find out whose circumstances may have changed, to update their availability. If you have not already been contacted to check, or would like to offer your services now, please let the coordinator in your area know.



We have also just appointed a Distribution coordinator, Steve Sheard, who will help us achieve a much smoother operation. Welcome Steve!

Covid 19 Benefits...yes, there have been some!

One of the unforeseen benefits of the crisis has been an opportunity to utilise a skills bank of furloughed experts who have offered their services to us for free. We have recognised the need for a rebrand, as our aims and objectives have shifted and transformed.

Feeding Families is no longer just for Christmas, we have recognised that we need a holistic approach. Hunger is one small part of a growing problem in modern society. **We want to reach out to families that need us all year round.** There are a myriad of reasons why a family can be in crisis, and we want to help wherever and whenever we can. We are in consultation now, and hope to bring a whole new approach to our work, assisting as many families as possible. Watch this space!

How else can you help?

If you are unable to help us with donations or food deliveries, we are in need of ideas and initiatives to help us fund the work we are doing. Our major fundraising plans were shelved, because of the pandemic, but we feel sure that you, our supporters, can still find ways to help.

Can you organise an online pub quiz or activity with friends or family that can generate donations?

We run an online raffle every month, but would you be able to encourage friends and family to purchase tickets? Can you involve your workplace or any businesses that you have connections with to do something to help? Can you do a sponsored slim to get rid of that Covid 10 that everyone seems to have acquired? **No sum is too small**, we are grateful for any help you can offer. If you have any ideas at all, the more unusual, the better, please feel free to drop us a line. We need another Captain Tom!

April and Imogen



Although he did sterling work for the NHS, we have our own pair of little superheroes who are taking great strides to help our cause.

April (6) and Imogen (3) are going to cover the distance of the Great North Run by climbing the stairs to raise money for Feeding Families.

Both girls have special needs and it's particularly tough for Imogen who has Cerebral Palsy. They are determined to do it together and will make a great team. Can you support them? You can watch some of their [climb here](#).

April and Imogen aim to raise £500.00 for Feeding Families, by taking part in April and Imogen climb the GNR (13.1miles). Click [here](#) to support April and Imogen.

Sponsor a parcel

Anyone can sponsor the cost of a pack and with this money we buy food for our central boxes. Our giving links are here:

- CARD: <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/donation/feeding-families>
- PAYPAL: <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/donation/paypal/feeding-families>
- DIRECT DEBIT: <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/direct-debit/create/feeding-families>



Collection Tins

Would your place of business consider having a collection tin in your public areas? Every penny really does count!

Please email steve@feedingfamilies.org.uk if you'd like to support this initiative.

Amazon Smile

We have all been resorting to online shopping during the crisis. Did you know that you can nominate Feeding Families as your charity of choice to receive cash for every penny that you spend with Amazon?

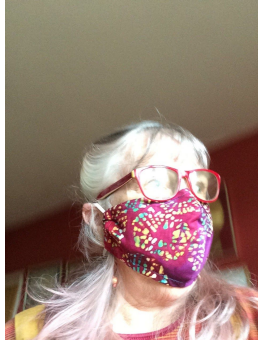
It costs you nothing more, but it could help us a lot! Smiles all round! [AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.](#)

Welcome Home Boxes

We are currently piloting an idea to place food boxes in hospitals for vulnerable patients who are discharged without food at home. If successful, we hope to roll out to hospitals across the region. The cost of a box is £8 - could you sponsor one or more?

Facemasks

Our volunteers have been encouraged to wear face masks to protect



themselves and our families whilst delivering food packages. Everyone is being urged to wear facemasks in public areas too now, and there are a number of different places to purchase them. They offer varying standards of protection and can be quite dull. One of our lovely volunteers has researched and developed her own product, and has offered the charity a donation for each one sold to our supporters.



You can read more about that by following this link. [Further information](#)

Local Businesses have been incredibly supportive of our endeavours before and during the Covid crisis. We would like to show our appreciation by giving them a

'shout out' here:



County Durham
Community Foundation



