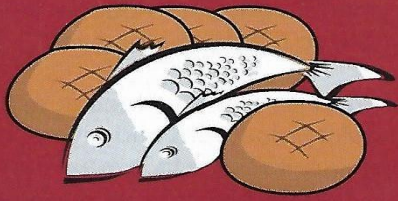


Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



Where a little means a lot

April 2020

Still Open!

Here at **FHN** as we run our applications from a website and by mail, and Gill and the trustees that consider the payments already operate from home we are still open for business as usual.

When the government announced the coronavirus lockdown, because most of the organisations we deal with reduced drop-in advice sessions or had to adjust to working from home, there was an initial slowing of applications. But the need for our emergency payments is now as great as ever.

Many of the applicants we deal with were already struggling at the bottom of the pile, they would never be able to buy a little extra when supplies are available; many refugees are limited to using Aspen cards which mean they can only shop at a limited number of stores. They have no access to cash for markets or local shops.

Food banks where they have managed to stay open despite isolated volunteers etc. are struggling with supply issues and often not taking on new clients as they now need to deliver within social distancing. Drop-ins and shelters where many of the homeless get food are also severely cutting back on places and dining numbers.

At the same time with churches closed and church councils not meeting there has been a noticeable slowing in our donations. Can you help?

Updates on Fundraising

This year is the 60th anniversary of the Fund for Human Need and we planned to launch a special Birthday Appeal inviting members of churches to help us celebrate – and giving cause for some of the poorest in our nation to celebrate too! The governments instructions to “stay at home” Which has seen the closure of all places of worship has led to an inevitable delay in churches receiving our birthday card. Most of our planned events have been cancelled, but we are still hoping to attend Methodist conference and Greenbelt later in the year.

This makes the local promotion of FHN by our supporters even more important, can you think of some non-contact ways of spreading the news. Could you organise a virtual fundraising event?

Resources - Our film and other resources are available on the website –

www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk

New Leaflet- When we can meet again is there a space where you can display our information?

Electronic giving- We are on ‘Just giving’ search for us or use the button on the website.

Home shopping- If you shop through Amazon please use the ‘smile’ version and nominate us. 0.5% is given to the Fund.

Wherever we go we invite regular giving by Standing Order – for tax payers gift aiding donations enables us to add 25p to every £ donated. You can set this up online.

The backbone of any charity is its fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. Is this something you would consider?

THANK YOU We are very grateful to all who are supporting us in what is for everyone a very difficult time. Regular donations are especially helpful as we seek to meet a demand for help that is likely to be greater than ever in the coming months.

The Need: From an ‘Into housing’ support project - J had support from our project as he became homeless following losing his job and then his flat. At this time, he was suicidal and had support from Mental Health Services. He was supported to find a new flat and work. He has now lost his job again and has no income. He continues to have serious depression and finds it very difficult to cope when he is out of work which is why he left his previous accommodation as he didn’t know how to pay the rent. He has some support from our service and contacted us when he was struggling to manage, but his financial situation, delays in Universal Credit payments, not being able to find consistent work are all contributing to poor mental health. A small payment would give him the ability to manage to eat and keep gas and electric on as they will otherwise run out soon, this would be a huge boost in enabling him to cope through this period. **FHN made a payment of £80 through the organisation.** (name changed)

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These current news articles show some of the problems currently faced by front line organisations who all regularly apply to us for their clients.

Glass Door, who shelter around 170 homeless people per night in London, had to turn away an individual who had recently spent time in abroad. NHS 111 advised that the individual should not share a sleeping space. As a result, the person, who did not turn out to have the virus, spent the night in public places. Megan Preston, service development manager and coronavirus lead at Glass Door, said: "If he had had the virus then there's obviously that public health risk for that one night so we couldn't admit them into the shelter on the NHS' advice"

Glass Door has also struggled to provide food at its night shelters as it cannot book a delivery slot from a supermarket for the next three weeks. This comes as several other homelessness charities, including Crisis and St Mungo's, express their concerns about the impact of coronavirus on the homeless population.

Jon Sparkes, of Crisis, said: "People sleeping rough are particularly vulnerable because they are more likely to have a range of existing health conditions, they face specific challenges as they may be unable to regularly wash their hands, nor self-isolate if they feel unwell."

Howard Sinclair, chief executive of St Mungo's, said: "Right now, our teams are out as usual meeting people to talk about housing offering support around health and well-being."

<https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/news/londons-largest-network-of-night-shelters-forced-to-turn-away-rough-sleepers-due-to-coronavirus-fears-65435>

More pressure may be coming. Some charities have expressed concerns that if prisoners were released, as has happened elsewhere they would struggle to cope. "That would be very unhelpful when we are already dealing with unprecedented demand," says Mel Hartley, project manager at St Petrock's Exeter.

Figures released on Thursday revealed that 62,280 families are currently living in temporary accommodation in England – 5,400 of those with shared facilities. More needs to be done, says Polly Neate, CEO of Shelter. "We already had people choosing between rent and food. Now, with kids at home, that is going to be even more acute – they need help now."

Acknowledging that people in already economically precarious situations could quickly find themselves homeless because of the current crisis, the government protected people being evicted for non-payment of rent last week. Many charities say there is political will to tackle the crisis at both a national and local level, a steely determination

in the third sector, and compassion in the wider community. "Maybe if we manage to find shelter for all who need it in this crisis, we will actually see that a home for all is possible," said Melissa Kerschen of Glass Door. "It sounds like a cliché, but our fates are all interlinked, and this crisis is showing us that."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/22/coronavirus-homeless-face-race-against-time-to-self-isolate>

These organisations are among those who apply regularly on behalf of clients. Often, they are not allowed to hand out money, and they turn to FHN to provide a small amount where a little means a lot.

The Need: A personal application: I have been made homeless and am in temporary accommodation with a child of 22 months. I separated from my husband because of domestic abuse. I have been evicted from my home because my husband was responsible for paying the rent but didn't. I do not yet receive any income or benefits, even the child benefit is still going into my husband's account. My accommodation will not become permanent until I am receiving benefits. My situation is desperate that's why I am applying. The future does not look good for me unless if I get some support because I have almost no money in my bank. **FHN made a payment of £90 to the applicant**

Thanks to our funding from Methodist Church (MAPJ)

100% of your donations go to those in the most need.

60 years of loving our neighbours.

DONATE

If you can help us in supporting individuals who have no access to the major relief funds or benefits, please see our website at:

http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=111

There you will find all the information you need on making a donation or regular gift.

Or you can contact us at:

fundhumanneed@gmail.com

Keeping in touch – we send a newsletter regularly, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. For new supporters we will get in touch to find out your mailing preferences. If at any time these change please let the administrator know. Mrs Gill Mason:
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