

THE VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN FIFE - FACULTY CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2022

It has been another hard year for families and our help is needed more than ever. The response last year was incredible but we need to do it again. Families are in even more desperate circumstances with rising prices for food, fuel and hygiene products. Many services are not operating. The pressure on families is intolerable. There are increasing mental health problems. There is loss of employment and benefits are decreasing. Parents are becoming extremely distressed that they may be unable to provide basic needs or even heat their home for their children without even being able to imagine Christmas.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Toys, books, games, new clothes, pyjamas, accessories etc. or any fun presents for children of all ages (including teenagers) - there are about 100 children. Also second hand bikes etc. are great as long as they are in safe condition;
- Presents for the parents – over 50% of the families have a parent with mental health problems -the pressure of Christmas can be too much and a thought for them goes a long way;
- Christmas treats e.g. selection boxes, tins of biscuits, sweets and savoury treats which are not too perishable; Christmas wrapping paper or gift bags ; and
- **CASH DONATIONS** – these are used to buy Asda vouchers for food as food banks are under huge pressure and the number of visits is restricted. It will be used to buy Christmas dinners for families and urgently needed warm clothes and blankets. The money also provides an emergency fund to help families who need urgent help with accommodation, essential items, beds and duvets for children, cookers, fridges and washing machines and helps with activities throughout the year. The number of families fleeing domestic abuse or breaking down has increased. The charity helps those in crisis including those driven to attempt suicide. The Faculty cash donation is used only for the needs of the families.
- **Members can donate via their Faculty Services Ltd account (just email me with the amount and your code) or anyone can do so via a payment to Faculty Services Ltd – just email me for the bank details or send a cheque to me at Parliament House made payable to Faculty Services Ltd marked for Homestart. Please could you complete a gift aid form if you have not done so before and send it back to me –this adds a lot. [here insert link]**

WHERE, WHEN AND HOW?

CASH/CHEQUES/MANDATES, BANK TRANSFERS– anytime from now!

12 December 2022 - 16 December 2022. You can hand donations in to **Faculty Reception during this period.** Scott Brownridge, can arrange for things to be collected from your home in that week, if you let him know.

On **Saturday 17 December 2022** you can bring donations into **Parliament House** to the **Laigh Hall** in the morning (**10am - 12noon**) after which we will take the donations straight to Fife in a Faculty van.

Thank you to everyone who has offered support and for the fantastic response in the past years. Parents already starved themselves at this time to make sure they had something to give their children – there is nothing more they can give up. The donations really make a difference but the troubles are increasing and more families need support. Please help, if you can. They need us more than ever.