

THE VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN FIFE - FACULTY CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2025

Helping families who suffer isolation, bereavement, disability, cancer, depression and mental health issues including dependency leading to poverty.

Ten years and we are still going strong and very much needed. This collection is really making a difference because we are now helping families in all the Home-Starts in Fife as well as requests from health visitors, schools and community development services who support families that are not in the Home-Start service. The charity helps those in crisis including those driven to attempt suicide.

The pressure on families is, as ever, intolerable at this time of year. Parents become extremely distressed that they will not be able to give their children anything for Christmas, starving themselves to be able to put aside something for their children. The stress causes parents to break down- often at the school gates. With this collection you are not only saving Christmas but also the future of children and their families. For those fleeing domestic abuse or suffering abandonment the money can help set up a safe home.

Cash is used to buy food vouchers and Christmas dinners for families. The money helps with gas and electricity, baby food, bedding, beds, warm clothes, lunches for children with additional needs, transport to hospital appointments, hygiene products and basic essentials. It funds activities for families all year round – picnics, play sessions and swimming lessons which families could not access otherwise.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- New toys, books, games, clothes, pyjamas, accessories or any fun presents for children of all ages but more under 5s this year including babies. Also, second hand bikes etc. are great as long as they are in safe condition;
- Presents for the parents- mainly mums but also dads – over 50% of the families have a parent with mental health problems - 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; and

CASH DONATIONS –. The Faculty cash donation is used only for the needs of the families - there is nothing spent on charity administration - it reaches those who need it immediately.

- **Members can donate via their Faculty Services Ltd account (just email me with the amount and your code)**
- **Anyone can donate 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 Home-Start.**

GIFT AID

- **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 to the collection. [here insert link]**

WHERE, WHEN AND HOW?

CASH/CHEQUES/MANDATES, BANK TRANSFERS– anytime from now until mid-January

From now you can order items on line to be delivered directly to Parliament House by Friday 12 December 2025. Please address them to Scott Brownridge/ Maria Maguire K.C. Faculty Christmas Collection, Parliament Square, Parliament House, Edinburgh EH1 1RF. And email us to expect it.

From now until Saturday 13 December 2025 you can hand donations in to **Faculty Reception**. Scott Brownridge can arrange for things to be collected from your home, if you let him know. scott.brownridge@Advocates.org.uk

On Saturday 13 December 2025 you can bring donations into **Parliament House** to the **Laigh Hall** between **9.30am- 11.30 am** 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 truly fantastic response in the past years- 1000s of presents and over £100,000 raised helping 800 Families and 1264 children at Home-Start alone and counting.

Everything you give does changes lives and gives hope. Please help, if you can.

MARIA MAGUIRE KC (maria.maguire@advocates.org.uk)