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30/12/20.

Dear Mr. Campbell & Colleagues

I would like to thank you for the huge donations of food we received yesterday at the Rickmansworth foodbank, I've contacted Watford foodbank to check how their stock level is, so if they need some extra stock we will share some with them. The Rickmansworth foodbank is organised by the Mill End Community trust; each year we strive to increase our activities & achieve our charitable objectives, whose charitable purpose is:

*The relief of financial hardship amongst people living within the local and surrounding communities of Mill End, Rickmansworth and Maple Cross by providing such persons with food and such other assistance as the trustees think fit in an effort to restore dignity and revive hope through practical community action to bring lasting changes to those in financial hardship.*

Here is a brief update of Mill End Community trust Activities

This is the last update for 2020 from the foodbank & all of the trustees would like to thank each and every one of you for your support. This has blessed us in so many ways, enabling us to fully provide for others in our community, in a time of rising redundancies, increasing numbers requiring to claim benefits many for the first time in their lives and the relentless tasks of applying & competing for jobs. Often we are the only face to face service that these clients can access & offload their worries.

Despite lockdowns & restrictions the Rickmansworth Foodbank (organised by Mill End Community trust- MECT) was able to maintain 3 openings per week throughout; 1 based in Croxley & twice weekly at our main base in Mill End accompanied by periodic opening of the Abbots Langley distribution point.

The increase in numbers started in March with providing food for 263 people in that month, this trend continued throughout the year and since April we have provided 2,562 people with food. We normally fluctuate between 1100 & 1250 in a full financial year, and yet still have 3 months left of this financial year.

MECT as per usual custom provided Christmas hampers for nominated clients: previously we have offered this throughout three rivers district & neighbouring areas, however this year South Oxhey aimed to provide for their own community, so we didn't include that locality. The nominations are received from a variety of local professional & charitable organisations and for the first time this year virtually all junior schools throughout the area nominated families. As S.Oxhey usually generates approx. 30 nominations we had expected a reduction in total requests, but we provided a record number of 120 Hampers even with this exclusion. This amounts to providing food including Christmas dinner, a stock of food, toiletries & Christmas fayre for 211 Adults & 203 Children.

Linking the foodbank as the contact point with the citizen's advice bureau for clients requiring their assistance, has greatly benefited many struggling financially & assisted many others with pursuing benefits, rental & housing issues to name just a few.

We continued to purchase fresh fruit & vegetables to offer clients at the foodbank, and fresh meat during the school holidays, to which one parent cried out "I now know, I can provide a hot meal every day for the family".

Having the mental health outreach service in attendance at our main base on Tues & Fri is steadily growing client momentum and acceptance by them to trust and access help. Unfortunately now we are in tier 4 this has reverted to phone calls only, with no face to face interchange.

The Mill End Community Trust (MECT) takes data security very seriously. You have received this newsletter because you are on our list of supporters. If you would like to see a copy of our privacy statement for supporters' data or prefer not to receive any updates please email [info@rickmansworth.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rickmansworth.foodbank.org.uk). Registered charity number: 1150227 – Mill End Community Trust



We are also continuing to top up clients electric & gas key meters, to enable heating the home & cooking meals. We remain uncertain of timings due to the current tier 4 when we are permitted by the Methodist church to re-open the Mill café and all associated services.

Once again thank you so much in helping us support so many in our communities, sprinkling hope & love too many.

Yours Sincerely, Iris Bangs- Rickmansworth foodbank manager & chair of Mill End Community Trust