

FEED UPDATE

FOOD
EMERGENCY
EAST
DURHAM



East Durham Trust
Moving our community forward

SPRING BULLETIN 2019

The latest newsletter from one of the North East's longest established food services.

ACTOR RICKY TOMLINSON OPENS FOODBANK EXTENSION



On Saturday 2nd March we were delighted to welcome renowned comedy actor Ricky Tomlinson to East Durham Trust to open our new foodbank extension 'The Universal Credit Room'.

The Government's controversial Universal Credit scheme has led to us needing to double our efforts in providing Emergency Food parcels throughout the region. Universal Credit is part of the Government's Welfare Reform package. Its inception has seen demand for Food Parcels, Benefit Advice and Debt Support spiral as local people struggle to cope.



Ricky said: "I'm sat in the middle of a room stocked with food that is going to be used by people who can't afford food or don't have anything to eat. It makes me feel very, very proud to be here and be part of this but it also makes me very, very angry because in 2019, in one of the richest countries on the planet, this shouldn't be happening."

Thanking Ricky for his support, CEO Malcolm Fallow added: "Having someone of Ricky's stature take the time to come along helps bring this important social issue to the attention of a wider audience. This inevitably increases donations and at a more strategic level helps to shape public opinion."

**So far this year we have given out 719 food parcels to people in crisis in East Durham.
Broken down this equates to...**

281

Single People

956

Adults

1,725

Bags of food

438

Families

710

Children

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED OVER EASTER

A massive thank you to everyone who donated much needed food to us over the Easter period. It is great to see our local community supporting one another. We are always looking for donations to support our ever growing demand for food parcels, so any donations are always greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the staff, students and parents at The Academy at Shotton Hall for their hard work and generosity in making a sizeable donation to our food bank over the Easter period.



Thank you to Brandon and Morgan from Acre Rigg Academy who have raised money as part of a creative enterprise scheme with Foundation of Light. They generously donated food to our FEED project which will help people in need across East Durham. They even helped our volunteer with organising the food into the FEED room.



Thank you to all of the following for the many Easter eggs we received. We ensured that your generous donations went to grateful homes, bringing smiles to a lot of children of families in need at Easter: -

- Argos
- Believe Housing
- Castledene Group
- Dalton-le-Dale Community Centre
- East Durham AAP (Area Action Partnership)
- North Tees Community Midwives
- Spectrum 8 Learning Disabilities Team
- plus numerous donations from individuals



Thank you to Peterlee running club 'Run Peterlee', who not only presented us with a cheque for £400 in March but also donated a vast amount of non-perishable food items to our FEED project. These items were collected at Run Peterlee's 5K trail event held last summer. Significantly, the Trust also manages 'Run East Durham', an initiative to help encourage local residents to take up physical activity. It is through this project that the group originally established their link and the relationship has developed from here.



THE EAST DURHAM TRUST WAY

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are not a traditional foodbank and use a model of working that is unique to East Durham Trust. Whilst many foodbanks operate with a voucher redemption scheme, we allow our clients to remain anonymous in order to protect their dignity by distributing food parcels through representatives and local community venues. We also have no formal limit to the amount of food parcels a client can receive if they are in crisis. This is often why people choose to bring their donations to us and we appreciate the support we have seen for our unique way of working.

With so many incredible donations, we would like to take this opportunity to share some stories from people for whom the FEED project was a vital life line over the Easter period.

SHANNON'S* STORY...

Shannon, a single mother of seven children was receiving Income Support. On informing the DWP that her bank details had changed, she was automatically switched to Universal Credit. This left her with no money at all for five weeks during which time she had to provide three meals a day for her children throughout the holiday period. We provided her with desperately needed food parcels as well as hot meals from our People's Takeaway for herself and her large family. We also gave her benefit advice and referred her to the MP's Office.



MILDRED'S* STORY...

Mildred is an elderly lady living alone in poverty. She has a variety of mental health issues; as well as suffering from anxiety and depression, she is bi-polar and prone to forgetfulness. Mildred recently experienced a serious house fire in which her household possessions were destroyed. She is currently awaiting a PIP appeal. We successfully applied for welfare assistance on her behalf to replace the goods she lost and provided her with a vitally-needed food parcel.



*Names have been changed to protect the identities of FEED beneficiaries.



THANK YOU ALL!

As well as all the vital and hugely-appreciated individual donations we receive on a daily basis, we also rely heavily on the continued support from such major locally-based businesses as **ASDA**, **Greggs** and **Caterpillar Peterlee**. Thank you all!



VOLUNTEERS

We would like to extend another big thank you to all of our volunteers for their tireless work over the last few months. From sorting through the masses of donations, to making up and delivering food parcels across East Durham to get them to people in need, our hard working volunteers are essential to the running of our FEED project.

Interested in volunteering?

We are always in need of more willing volunteers for the FEED project and are particularly short of volunteer drivers at the moment.

Contact Colin on 0191 5693511 or email

colin.jackson@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk to find out more about our volunteering opportunities.



JANUARY-APRIL 2019 DONATORS

Another massive thank you to all those that have donated so far this year – yet another impressively long list! Please continue supporting us though, as the food is continually flying off the shelves and our supplies will soon be depleted. Unfortunately the need for emergency food in East Durham shows no signs of slowing down.

Acre Rigg Academy
Acre Rigg Infant School
Jimmy Alvey
The Ark, Horden
ASDA
Nicola Balfour
Blackhall Community Centre
The Barn, Easington
Denise Barnes
Anne Benton
Mr Burns, Unity
Castledene Group (c/o Mr R Daly)
Catherine Campbell
Mary Cartwright
Community Midwives
Mr Cook
Dave Craig
Dalton-le-Dale Community Assoc'n
Dene Community School
Gillian Devine
Easington Family Centre
Easington Village Methodist Chapel
East Durham AAP
East Durham College

Judith Harle
Haswell Mencap
Healthworks
Victoria Heselton
Haswell Mencap
Healthworks
Holy Trinity Church, South Hetton
Horden Methodist Church
Horden Nursery School
Howletch Residents Association
Andrew Hughes
Kelly Hyde
John Snow House
Learning Disabilities Team, Spectrum 8
Leo Electrical Services Ltd
Claire Maddison, Believe Housing
McCrae House
Kelly McGinn
Merrick House
North Tees Community Midwives
Damian Old
One Awards
Our Lady of Lourdes
Paul & Sarah

Peterlee Memorial Methodist Church
Peterlee People's Club
Alison Quinn, BGL Group
Thomas Reece
Heather Reed
Michael & Susan Richardson
Laura Robinson
Sainsburys
Shotton Community Centre
Shotton Hall Academy
Sorella Group Ltd
St Andrews Church, Blackhall Colliery
St Joseph's RC Church
St Mary's RC School, Wingate
St Mary's Church, Easington Village
St Saviours Church (c/o Mr Longstaff)
Thornley Library
Christina Waisters
Joanne Walker
Laura White
Karen Wilson, Durham County Carers
Anne Wood
Caron Young

This list is in addition to our regular donators for who we are, as always, incredibly grateful for their ongoing support. It was near impossible to make this list exhaustive due to the sheer volume of donations we received this so far this year.

Furthermore, we receive many donations from donators who wish to remain anonymous.

We can only apologise if anyone has been missed, we are of course thankful for every donation.