

FEED Update 2017

Food Emergency East Durham (FEED) is an emergency food parcel service established by East Durham Trust in 2013. The project is a response to the growing tide of poverty and economic disadvantage locally and largely relies on donations from local people and the support of volunteers. Since being established the project has delivered over 5,000 parcels to people in need.



NEW YEAR, NEW DEBT, NEW CRISIS!



Welcome to our first FEED Newsletter of 2017. The early part of the year has seen an upsurge in demand for food parcels with post-Christmas debt being an obvious factor for many recipients. The continued impact of Welfare Reform and the resulting imposition of Benefit Sanctions also feature highly. As usual the project continues to highlight the sheer generosity and public spirit of the people who support the project with donations and volunteer time. This was particularly evident over the Christmas period when over 400 parcels were distributed but the increased demand was matched by a boost in donations—some of which are highlighted overleaf.

Debbie's* Story

Debbie was a single mother with five children. She had a history of domestic abuse and had only recently moved into the area when she found herself in dire need of a food parcel only 2 days before Christmas.

Daniel's* Story

Daniel was a young man who had been homeless and sleeping rough. Although he found a new home, he had to use all the money he had to pay the bond. Whilst other services supported him to sort out his rent the food parcel helped to support Daniel in the short term.

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

**WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR FEED VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO DRIVE!
Thank you for our current volunteers who continue to support the project.**

What else we do at East Durham Trust

Did you know?...

- We offer advice on debt and energy usage
- We hold community job clubs at local venues
- We can save you money online
- We have volunteering opportunities
- We host a range of free activities



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED THIS CHRISTMAS

We have had some fantastic support from the local community over the Christmas periods. Here's just a few:

- Rather than Secret Santa Babcock Training spent their £5 each on food to donate to FEED. Other organisations also did a reverse advent calendar which meant they brought food in every day.
- Shotton Hall Academy brought an entire minibus load of donations!

Many other local groups, schools, charities, businesses and organisations donated generously over the Christmas period (too many to list!) but it wouldn't be possible to deliver the FEED project without their ongoing support.

On behalf of those who you have helped and from the team at East Durham Trust we would like to say thank you.

Handbags from local women, for local women

East Durham Belles joined in with a campaign to give women and girls a special extra gift this Christmas. Helping Handbags is an initiative that encourages women to donate handbags filled with girly essentials to other women in need. They can have everything from sanitary products to make up, chocolate to bubble bath, gloves to tissues. East Durham Belles worked with us to collect donations which were then given out with food parcels as an added extra. **Big thanks to East Durham Belles and all the people that donated to the scheme.**



Thank you to all who have donated and provided essential support for local people in crisis. Every Item Counts!!

For more information on the FEED project contact us on 0191 5693511 or info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk