

THE VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN FIFE – FACULTY CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2021

It is that time of year again. Last year the response was amazing. We really made a difference. However, many families in desperate circumstances are still suffering the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Financial support has been cut. Fuel and food costs are rising. Many services are not operating. At this time pressure is starting to mount on the families. The parents are becoming extremely distressed that they may be unable to provide for their children.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Toys, books, games, new clothes, pyjamas, accessories etc. or any fun presents for children of all ages (including teenagers) - this year there are about 100 children from new born to aged 8. 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. The money always provides an emergency fund to help families who need urgent help with accommodation and essential items like 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 one young mother 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. 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. You can download the form that you will need to complete here: <https://www.advocates.org.uk/media/4033/collection-gift-aid-multiple-donation-homestart-2.pdf>**

WHERE, WHEN AND HOW?

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

13 December 2021- 17 December 2021. You can hand donations in to **Faculty Reception during this period.** Scott can arrange for things to be collected from your home in that week, if you let him know.

On **Saturday 18 December 2021** 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 especially during hard times. The pressure on the families has increased enormously. It still happens that some parents starve themselves at this time to make sure they have something to give their children. A young breastfeeding mother and her partner did not eat for days as her maternity pay was cut and they had to feed their four-year-old year old child. That shouldn't have to happen. Please help, if you can. They need us and have great faith that we will continue to help them.

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