



The Spectrum, Coke Hill, Rotherham S60 2HX

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Food for People in Crisis Christmas Appeal 2014

I am writing on behalf of the Food for People in Crisis Partnership to ask if you could support a really good cause in the borough during the period leading up to Christmas.

Winter is the hardest time of year for people living in poverty, and this Christmas is looking especially tough as food, energy and fuel prices continue to rise. It's a sad reflection of reality that every day in Rotherham there are people struggling to find the money to buy food. As the recession gets worse, it's not only unemployed or homeless people who find themselves in this terrible situation. Older people and more working families on low wages are finding it difficult to pay all the bills and still have enough money to buy food. If you are unemployed or on a low wage an unexpected expense, illness or just a change in any benefits they receive can often tip people into a crisis.

In an attempt to tackle this problem and help as many people as possible over the Christmas/New Year period, Rotherham's Food for People in Crisis Partnership (FIC) has launched their Christmas Appeal, asking those in Rotherham that are able to help by donating either food, toiletries or money.

The FIC partnership consists of different organisations working across the borough, and often it is these organisations that people turn to for support when they have nowhere else to go. The organisations offer food parcels and/or hot meals and other support to those in need.

So that FIC organisations can keep their store cupboards full to handle an ever increasing volume of requests for assistance and emergency situations, we want to collect food, toiletries and cash to make sure we can help as many people over the Christmas period as possible.

People, groups and organisations can also make a donation to the FIC Christmas Appeal either by cheque or bank transfer:

Cheques should be made payable to 'People in Need (VAR)' and sent to Voluntary Action Rotherham, the Spectrum, Coke Hill, Rotherham S60 2HX.

To make a bank transfer, please ask your bank to send your donation to 'People in Need (VAR)', account number 20298847, sort code 086001.

Every **penny** raised is directed via small grants to groups providing food in crisis support. As a result of the money and food/toiletry donations last Christmas, the following organisations were supported to provide a range of services including food parcels, Christmas meals, hampers and small gifts:

Apna Haq
British Red Cross
Citizens Advice Bureau
Food AWARE Maltby
Gate Surgery
GROW
Lighthouse Homes
Rotherham Foodbank
Salvation Army Cortonwood

Salvation Army Dinnington
Salvation Army Kimberworth
Salvation Army Rawmarsh
Salvation Army Wath
Shiloh Rotherham
Street Life Support
Swinton Brookfield Children's Centre
The Hub Christian Community
The Underground Mission, Liberty Church

Over the last year the number of Food for People in Crisis organisations has increased with, for example, Coleridge and Rotherham Central Children's Centres joining the partnership.

Chief Executive: Janet Wheatley Chair: Margaret Oldfield
Registered Charity Number: 1075995
Registered Company Number: 2222190

Last year the Appeal raised over £3,000 in cash donations (from a variety of sources) and donations of food and toiletries. Some of the food/toiletries were used to make up Christmas hampers, provide hot meals over the Christmas period but quite a lot was also used after Christmas and beneficiaries are needless to say extremely grateful for the generous support they received. This year's donation points are in the attached Appendix 1.

For more information about the FIC Christmas Appeal or to arrange a donation point for food and toiletries, please contact Vanessa Bryan at Voluntary Action Rotherham on 01709 723097.

Knowing another person wants to help is sometimes the greatest gift of all. Thank you for helping stop hunger in Rotherham this Christmas.

Kind regards.

Food for People in Crisis

Appendix 1

Food for People in Crisis Christmas Appeal 2014 Donation Points:

- Aston Library and Customer Service Centre, Worksop Road, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4WD
- Aston Park Fire Station, Worksop Road, Aston, S26 2FZ
- Dearne Fire Station, Manvers Way, S63 5DD
- Dinnington Library and Customer Service Centre, Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PP
- Maltby Customer Service Centre, Braithwell Road, Maltby, Rotherham S66 8JE
- Maltby Fire Station, High Street, Maltby, S66 8LA
- Rawmarsh Library and Customer Service Centre, Barbers Avenue, Rawmarsh, Rotherham S62 6AE
- Rotherham Fire Station, Fitzwilliam Road, Rotherham, S65 1ST
- Rotherham M.B. Council, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE
- Swinton Library and Customer Service Centre, Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough S64 8PZ
- Wath Community Library, Montgomery Square, Wath, Rotherham S63 7RZ
- Wickersley Community Centre and Library, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1JJ
- Voluntary Action Rotherham, The Spectrum, Coke Hill, Rotherham S60 2HX

We are also very grateful to Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group, Rotherham College of Arts and Technology, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust and South Yorkshire Police Barnsley and Rotherham Districts whose staff are making donations at their workplace.

