

Good Shepherd Ministries – 8 June 2020

To all our supporters

Firstly, we would like to say thank you for your continued support to the work we do at The Good Shepherd.

Wolverhampton has been identified as one of the area's most vulnerable to the economic impact of COVID-19. When considering the long-term economic impact, we know that people already experiencing poverty and homelessness will be further disadvantaged. We're also predicting a greater need for our food and support services from people that haven't had to access food or support services previously due to loss of employment and accommodation following the lockdown. We're seeing this already and expect it to get worse over the coming months. With the fantastic support from food partners we have been able to keep up with this huge demand and serve a wholesome meal daily to many who don't have cooking facilities and funds to purchase food. We have remained open for emergency support during the outbreak so we're here to offer advice and guidance to some of the most disadvantaged people in the city.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak the local authority secured a local hotel and other temporary accommodation to offer rooms to anyone sleeping rough or at risk of street homelessness. They also housed our night shelter guests to reduce the risk of transmission. Alongside our partners in the city and coordinated by the council, Good Shepherd are providing daily support services at the hotel to meet people's needs and to help them move into long term accommodation. We're working daily with partners like Wolverhampton Homes and P3 to identify properties and support people into long term solutions.

We are serving around 170 meals each day and providing around 40 family food parcels. Working to tackle both food waste and food hunger we were able to get over £4,000 of donated stock from January to March from various food partners and supermarkets. This is a life line to many individuals living in poverty and without cooking facilities to enjoy wholesome food and reduce the amount going to landfill

To replace some of our lost income we have decided to run an online auction, please find attached the bidding rules and also the link to the items. We have some fantastic bids up for grabs – a huge thank you to all who have donated something.

All bids to be emailed to vicki@gsmwolverhampton.org.uk with details of which number 'lot' you are bidding for & your contact details. Reserve price is just a minimum - please bid higher if you can to have more chance of winning and raising more funds to help us with our work. Closing date for bids is 12pm on Thursday, June 25th.

<https://gsmwolverhampton.org.uk/content/uploads/2020/06/Silent-Auction-Details-2.pdf>

Good luck, and happy bidding!

Helen Holloway

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