

# PROVIDE DEVON

## Charity Newsletter – January '19



### 2018 CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, local retailers, businesses and donations via our annual Sponsor a Sprout appeal, 186 Christmas food hampers were delivered from Hope Baptist Church to Plymouth families and individuals in severe financial crisis. An army of volunteers gave their time and energy in the lead up to the delivery on Sunday 23rd December, and it was nothing short of a miracle that in just a few hours all of the hampers were on the way to being delivered. Each box contained all the items for a Christmas meal and dessert with all the trimmings and lots of little extra's too. There are so many people to thank, so if you were involved in anyway, please know that you made the greatest difference to so many people in Plymouth and the surrounding areas. This is just some of the feedback received so far.

*"Thank you so much! My children were so excited when the food arrived..." (Mrs C, Plymouth)*

*"We hadn't expected to celebrate this year...your kindness has meant so much this Christmas" (Mr J, Plymouth)*

*"Thank you for helping the families I work with. I didn't have anywhere else to turn for food for them this Christmas..." (Parent Support Adviser, Plymouth)*



### NEW PREMISES

Just before Christmas Maddie & Ayshea collected the keys to our new premises, which is an incredible milestone for the charity. An amazing team of volunteers are helping us refit the building to make it suitable and we hope to move in at the start of February. Thank you to everyone who supported our Crowdfunder campaign to enable this work, especially Plymouth City Council who made a significant donation to the work.



We will continue to operate by only providing food to our approved referral agents so **this is not a food bank**; however, it does allow us to store some food donations and have a dedicated office and central point for our volunteers. Please contact us if you would like to pop in and learn more about what the charity offers to families in need in Plymouth and surrounding areas.



### STAY IN TOUCH

To receive future newsletters and updates on our fundraising events, just email and let us know [providedevon@outlook.com](mailto:providedevon@outlook.com)



## EVERYDAY EMERGENCY FOOD

Provide Devon currently work with more than 60 referral agents across the city. Primary Schools, Churches, Charities and the Local Government are all referring families and individuals who are unable to afford basic food. Sadly, the number of people experiencing food poverty is increasing and we have seen the demand for our services triple in the past 12 months. 1 in 5 children in our city are living in poverty.

In addition to longer life food such as pasta, rice and cereals, as we are an emergency response food charity we are also able to include fresh fruit and vegetables as well as chilled dairy products such as milk in our parcels. Once we are made aware of the need, our fantastic volunteers will purchase all the fresh items and combine this with donated tinned and packet foods and deliver to the referral agent. We do not provide the food directly as we believe it is important that the families maintain the relationship with the referral agent in order to explore longer term support. Our whole focus is to provide a one-off food package for immediate relief to hunger for anyone in severe financial crisis.

If you work with families and individuals who would benefit from our services and are interested in becoming a referral agent, please email us at [providedevon@outlook.com](mailto:providedevon@outlook.com)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We currently have a number of opportunities to volunteer with Provide Devon. Please send us an email at [providedevon@outlook.com](mailto:providedevon@outlook.com) if you would like to know more.

- **Delivery Drivers** – Approximately 2 hours per fortnight. (This will involve collecting food packages from Provide's premises and delivering to a school or business within Plymouth.
- **Shoppers** – Approximately 1 hour per fortnight. A short shopping list of fresh food will be provided and you can collect from your nearest supermarket before delivering to Provide's premises.
- **Date Checkers** – Approximately 2 hours per fortnight. Our food donations need to be sorted into date order and checked over before being given out.
- **Cleaning** - Approximately 1 hour per fortnight. If you have a passion for cleaning, our premises and small food store require a light dust & wipe weekly.



### FINANCIAL DONATIONS

If you would like to financially support Provide Devon, please consider setting up a monthly standing order. Money donated this way will be used for our emergency food parcels. Just send an email with your name, amount and whether you are a tax payer (as we may be able to claim Gift Aid) and we will send you our account details. Alternatively cheques can be made payable to "Provide Devon". Thank you.

### PROVIDE DEVON

*(Registered Charity No. 1181135)*

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