



Loaves 'n' Fishes

12.07.2009

Dear Mr Baker,

Thank you for replying to our application re; funding for the cost of a van.

It would be of benefit for us to continue with this application as we really do need a new van, last year we had to spend over £500 in repairs.

Loaves n Fishes has run for the past four years through the compassion of others seeing the work we do and contributing financially. From the beginning a, now 89, year old lady has supported us by contributing towards the rent along with gentleman who gives us his wages from a lollipop round. Many people along the way have given us money and we have continued this long through the generosity of others.

We have not applied for funding from Sandwell MBC for a van. Our building is based in Sandwell, that's just the building; this is not a Sandwell only project.

I don't know if you are aware of the work we do. We are unlike any other project due to the fact we do not sell anything, everything is given away for free. The people we help have no other way of getting support. The cases are genuine as they are referred by supporting agencies who have been to the property and seen for themselves. Many agencies have sent letters of thanks stating there is no where else to get this sort of help from

We receive referrals from all over, social services, councils, mental health teams, sure starts, refuges, from Dudley and Sandwell.

A few reasons why someone would refer to Loaves n fishes

- When someone is offered a property from the council they are expected to move immediately, by that I mean before the next week starts. This is due to two lots of rent having to be paid and housing benefit will only pay for one. Some, if entitled to a community care grant, have to wait six weeks for the grant to arrive. Even if they have been living in a refuge due to domestic violence or for what ever reason they are still asked to leave. We have helped women coming out of refuges in Sandwell and Dudley.

- People receiving Incapacity benefit are not entitled to a community care grant so have no way of getting the furniture and other household items they need to set up home.
- Some parents may have received a warning from social services to 'clean up house' or there may be a risk of the children going into care. The support services are in place but they need that initial help for a fresh start so out with their old and in with what we can give.
- Social services, (Dudley), have asked us for help before when it comes to the elderly. They have not been able to look after their home properly so it too has become unliveable. They are taken to live elsewhere, usually in supported housing, but unfurnished. Social services can usually sort out the white goods we help with the rest. We have supported, for the same reasons, people suffering with mental health problems.

Besides helping people from the borough of Dudley by providing for their needs we also help by highlighting the need to those in a position to give.

The people from Halesowen respond to this project in a very big way. In fact 80% of our collections are from that area, over 250 households this year in Halesowen alone. We have taken most of our collections over the past four years, from Halesowen for which we are very grateful and have in fact have stated to the Halesowen news not only a big thank you to all who give to us and for the massive response but also for the quality of things given.

Many have stated how they want to give to us because we don't sell, what they give really does go to the needy and because we don't charge for collecting.

By doing this we stop people taking things to the tip and therefore prevent landfill which is an ever increasing problem.

Unfortunately we do not have enough funds to buy a van; we cover the costs of running one through donations. Insurance, tax , wear and tare, but the main cost being diesel.

Please would you help us help those who need it most.

Yours in community spirit

Anna Hartland



Founder member/ Manager

Loaves n Fishes

26 Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath,
West Midlands, B64 6RQ.

NINE OUT OF TEN PEOPLE WE HELP HAVE NOTHING; THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF WHAT THEY RECEIVE FROM US.

- BED & BEDDING
- WARDROBE/ DRAWERS & BEDSIDE CABINET
- SOFA/ THREE PIECE
- FURNITURE FOR LIVING ROOM, WHICH EVER PREFERRED –(Table & chairs, nest tables, wall unit, coffee table)
- CARPET/ RUG
- SET OF FOUR DINNER PLATES, SIDE PLATES, DISHES, MUGS AND GLASSES. CUTLERY AND KITCHEN UTENSILS, SAUCEPANS, COOKING BOWLS.
- KETTLE, TOASTER & IRON (USUALLY BRAND NEW, DONATED FORM A LOCAL CHURCH)
- TOWELS
- CURTAINS
- OTHER (we add on what we have in the means of ornaments and pictures, hovers etc)

The following will be added to those who are unable to receive funding in this country at all or have very desperate circumstances-

- COOKER/ MICROWAVE
- WASHING MACHINE
- FRIDGE/ FREEZER

All the above is one load per person/family in crisis. This is why we value people who are so kind as to donate furniture to us, this is why we need a good reliable van.

Please would you consider helping us.