

Our project started when the New Life Church was given a substantial grant to supply free frozen meals to those in need in Warwickshire. I felt the Lord tell me to apply for a grant from DEFRA for £30,000 which would provide 12,000 meals but didn't really think we'd stand much of a chance of getting it as we are a tiny church with far less than the grant in operating costs it really was a miracle! We have since also received a further £24,000 from the Big Lottery to support our project.

We feel the provision is a miracle that will ensure no one in our towns will have to go hungry as we have been supplied with thousands of meals that can be distributed by churches, make lunch clubs, foodbanks, schools, community centres, councils and organisations and charities across Warwickshire.

We have distributed in the last 9 weeks approx. 31,903 meals across the county to those in food insecurity and we are working with over 40 frontline service partners to do this. Our partners include churches, make lunch clubs, foodbanks, schools, charities, social enterprises, social services and local councils.

The £54,000 we have been given and the free meals mean we have a substantial supply of food the funding however is only for food no operational costs, I can't spend it on anything other than food. Your Farmer have been amazing with deliveries and the use of their van but this is unsustainable as they get busier and we need to change our operating model so we can sustain current levels, respond to growing needs and be responsive to the frequent requests from many new organisations coming on board.

Refrigerated Vehicle

We have raised £8,600 towards a refrigerated vehicle and urgently need an additional £3,400 in order to complete the purchase of one from DW Commercial in Henley in Arden they are holding for us. It is only 5 years old with very low mileage. This will cover the cost for tax, insurance and the purchase price of the vehicle including VAT.

We also have ongoing monthly costs of

Packaging/boxes/carrier bags cost, Expenses to cover fuel, Volunteer PPE

Volunteer expenses (some of our volunteers are food insecure/have low or no income or have lost income (self-employed) and are impacted by the pandemic so we offer them vouchers to cover petrol costs/expenses, other volunteers do not claim anything from the project)

In the longer term I am looking to get a 10x10 foot outdoor freezer store costing £300 per month to lease and £60 a month to cover the electricity cost so we can have fewer deliveries from the manufacturer and can access a local store/supply making us more flexible and responsive and able to sell food to those who can afford it so we can income generate to sustain operating costs.

If you can help in anyway with our cost our account details are

Account Name : Your Farmer Meals Foodbank (Lloyds Bank)

Sort Code: 30 84 79

Account Number : 64733160

Freezer & Foodbanks collection point

We have fundraised for freezers which will enable us to open a Warwick town centre collection point opening in the next few weeks at Marys Sweet Memories Sweet Shop in Market Place. We have come up with this idea as there is no shame or stigma attached with going to a shop (unlike a foodbank or even a church) and people can just say they are there to collect their 'Your Farmer Meal Order' like they have prepaid and it's a click and collect. We are also printing up Gift certificate booklets, schools, churches, social services etc can give out to those most in need so they can come and claim food when they need it (& freezers have space) they can also select their food items which we hope gives them some dignity and agency.

We'd also really appreciate your prayers as we know we must be doing something right as we've had reliable machines break, deliveries not turn up for vital supplies, vehicles not starting on the way to school drops, factory and farm hit by lightning etc. These issues really hindered production this week and made me see we are definitely in a battle - but I expect it's not a surprise when you are telling hundreds of families Jesus Loves them through a food parcel! We do also get great God opportunities on the drops to share our faith and pray with people for healing and blessing.

Feel free to get in touch or put people in touch with me in they have any questions or what to talk anything through.

Kindest regards

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