



Changing lives throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

With your support we've helped thousands of people who have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and also continued our work across the wider community.

After a year like no other, together we have made a huge difference!

March 2020

Quickly adapted procedures to ensure we can continue to get help to those who need it, when they need it.

Begin providing emergency COVID-19 support, particularly to vulnerable clients moving from hostels to unfurnished tenancies to make way for those living on the streets.

April

Major fundraising drive to replace the expected 40% loss of income due to COVID-19.

Launch the There With You Fund with Leicestershire Live, The Leicester Mercury and The Randal Charitable Foundation to raise funds for those facing hardship due to the pandemic.

Meeting the Need Campaign also launched to ensure our continued support for clients across the community.

May

51% of requests for help are from those directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We've helped a total of 998 people (including 408 children) since the start of the pandemic.



June

The There With You Fund reaches £125,000 raised.

This month sees a 19.71% rise in the number of clients needing our help.

July/August

We've now received 1,329 requests for help (521 from those directly impacted by the pandemic).

2,766 people have now been helped, 1,159 of which are children needing support.

1,952 essential items worth **£273,378** have been distributed.

September

We've now helped 3,303 people, 41% of which were children.

Since the start of the lockdown, 37% of clients have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

The There With You Fund has now provided over **444** essential items worth **£60,663**.



October

Funding from the National Lottery enables us to begin extra development work to help us provide further support to harder to reach communities.

November

UK enters second national lockdown – we remain open and ready to provide support.

December

We see a 30% increase in requests for help compared to December 2019.

January 2021

The There With You Fund reaches over £134,500 raised.

We enter another significant lockdown period and our services remain as vital as ever.

February

We continue to support many clients affected by the pandemic, including people who've lost jobs and families struggling to make ends meet on reduced incomes.

People impacted by long COVID are also now needing our help.

March

£118,921 of essential items have now been distributed by the There With You Fund to those in need due to COVID-19 – supporting 1,836 people (881 children).

Overall **£851,191** of essential goods have been distributed during the past year.

A year supporting those in need due to COVID-19...

Thanks to your support, between 23rd March and 31st March, **£851,191** worth of essential goods have been distributed and 6,630 local people have been helped – 2,653 were children.

31% of all requests for help have been COVID-19 related.



We were delighted to also support Leicester City Council to distribute the COVID Winter Grant programme.

Continuing our support in the months ahead

Thanks to your support over the past year, we have helped to meet the huge need that the pandemic has presented. Our vital work continues.

We know from experience that even when economies start to pick up it can take a significant time for those benefits to reach those most vulnerable in our communities.

As the impact of the pandemic continues and as Government support schemes, such as furlough, end later this year, it is expected that a lot more people will find their employment in doubt and financial hardship a reality.

We will continue to offer support across the community; we'll help those who have lost jobs and livelihoods due to COVID-19 and we will – as we've done for over 140 years – work to ensure that all local people in hardship and crisis have the basics in life that we all deserve.

We remain here to help, but we simply can't do it without you. Thank you for your vital and continuing support during these challenging times.

Read more about our COVID-19 impact: charity-link.org/covid-19

Helping during the toughest of times

Emil has been struck twice by COVID-19 – in April 2020 and again in February 2021. He now has long COVID and struggles to breathe and is in pain from constant coughing. **Emil** has not been able to work since last year and is finding it difficult to cope financially. His sofa was soiled from when he was extremely ill and he had no way of buying a replacement and so didn't have anywhere to sit. Your support helped to provide this item to increase **Emil's** well-being as he continues his recovery.

Referred by a local food bank, **Holly** needed help with school uniforms and shoes for her three children. She had lost her job as a result of the pandemic and this left **Holly's** family struggling on limited benefits. After outgoings for general living expenses there was not enough left to purchase these vital items. Your support has enabled us to provide £238 worth of clothing for **Holly's** children.

* Real clients but names have been changed

Special thanks

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our vital work and donated to the There With You Fund, including:

- Leicestershire Live & The Leicester Mercury
- The Randal Charitable Foundation
- The National Lottery
- Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation
- Leicestershire's Police and Crime Commissioner's fund
- Wooden Spoon
- Skipton Building Society
- Hastings Direct Community Grants
- Severn Trent Community Fund
- Leicestershire Communities Fund
- The Sears Group Trust
- Better IT
- Designeering
- Our Proud Business Supporter Club Members

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