

Justice & Peace Refugee Project

Our Lady of Lourdes Deaf Centre

2 Summerhill Grove NE4 6EE

Opening times Monday, Wednesday and Friday

11.00am until 1.45pm



REFUGEE PROJECT AUTUMN 2018

News at a glance

- Since the last newsletter we have had 180 new clients join us at The Refugee Project between the months of June and August.
- In the month of July over 1,750 food bags were given out to attending clients (5 week month). In August just over 1,650 bags of food were given out (4 week month).
- Standing order payments can now be made through The Justice and Peace website. Please see the end of the newsletter for more details.
- We have recently started to use the Diocese Facebook and Twitter feeds to encourage people to donate to the Project.

VOLUNTEERS

JPRP is run by volunteers and one part-time member of staff. Currently 40 volunteers undertake to cover 1, 2 or 3 days each week, with a few "as and when". Their work is crucial to the running of the centre, where they undertake door duties, stacking shelves, unloading cars, making up bags of basic groceries, splitting bags of sugar, rice, pasta etc. into smaller bags, organising tea and coffee, clothes sorting and storing, registration and swapping food items amongst other things. In a typical week, we distribute 350-400 bags of food, which equates to over 150,000 food items per year. We also provide a selection of good quality clothing and household items every week.

New volunteers are always needed and welcomed at the Refugee Project. If you would like to Volunteer please get in touch for information regarding visiting us, and how you can help.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Food donations

-  Tinned meat, tinned tomatoes, baked beans, plain rice, sugar, tinned fish, tea bags, biscuits (these items make up the food bag which we give to each client once a week).
-  Tinned fruit, sweet corn, cooking oil, jam, cereal, tinned chickpeas and kidney beans, small jars of coffee, **plus** toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, hand wash, sanitary pads (no tampons). These can be swapped for items in the food bag.
-  All products must be **'In Date'** and ideally have a good shelf life.
-  Out of date products
-  Products already opened

Clothes and others items

-  Clean Clothes in Good condition (18 years plus)
-  Ladies and men's shoes in good condition (trainers preferred for men)
-  Clean duvets (double and single)
-  Clean pillows
-  Clean and good condition towels
-  Kitchen crockery (including large clean pans)
-  Suitcases and Backpacks
-  Electrical goods
-  Sharp utensils
-  Children and baby clothes or toys
-  Dirty clothes or torn clothes

We have well over 550 active adult asylum seekers who come to us looking for help. The table below shows the 55 countries of origin. At the present time, the largest numbers are from Eritrea, Sudan and Iran. Although the number of asylum seekers in the UK is in decline, the numbers seeking assistance at the project are increasing all the time in

response to Government policies which have led to refugees being housed mainly in parts of the UK where accommodation is relatively cheap.

Clients by country of origin

Afghanistan	DRC	Kurdistan	Somalia
Albania	Egypt	Kuwait	Sri Lanka
Algeria	El Salvador	Lebanon	Sudan
Angola	Eritrea	Liberia	Syria
Armenia	Ethiopia	Libya	Togo
Bangladesh	Gambia	Morocco	Tunisia
Barbados	Georgia	Malawi	Uganda
Belarus	Guinea	Nigeria	Ukraine
Botswana	India	Pakistan	Vietnam
Burundi	Iran	Palestine	Western Sahara
Chad	Iraq	Russia	Yemen
Congo	Israel	Senegal	Zimbabwe
Cameroon	Ivory Coast	Sierra Leone	
Comoros	Jordan		
China	Kenya		

WHAT WE OFFER

All asylum seekers are welcome to visit us throughout the day during opening hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 1.45pm) where they can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, snacks and meet with friends. They sign for and receive a bag of groceries once each week. Those who are destitute also receive £25/month. We are a charity which supports adults only, registering people 18years and over.

FOOD COLLECTION

Food collections come to us from over 60 parishes across the Diocese - mostly every month. Some schools donate also, either regularly or at special times such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. For the last two years we have also received a large annual donation from The Youth Village. The bulk comes in on the Monday following the first Sunday of the month but can be delivered on any opening day between 10.00am and 1.30pm. At the centre, volunteers stack shelves when food donations come in - they then make up grocery bags.

OUR CURRENT SITUATION

It is now 17 years since the project first opened on just one day a week; since then we have grown year-on-year, evolving as needs demand. The services we offer are currently under considerable pressure due to increased numbers. Until relatively recently, we were typically registering 20-25 new people every month. However, in the past 3 months 180 new clients have joined us. Thanks to the continued support of our donor parishes/schools, we continue to be able to support all of our clients but we are now beginning to struggle under the increasing weight of numbers. We urge our regular supporters to keep up their parish food collections and to increase them if this is at all possible. We would also ask that parishes or schools not already involved think about doing so. Please get in touch with us to see if you are able to help us in any way.

DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND

This is a special account which is dedicated to help our destitute clients. Currently 170 of our clients qualify for a payment of £25 each month. Cash to this fund comes as donations from parishes, clergy, individuals and J&P groups. Some of these take out standing orders, whilst events such as coffee mornings, cake or plant sales, raffles, sponsored walks, musical evenings etc. help raise valuable funds. This year we expect to pay out over £45000 from the Destitute Asylum Fund. Other costs, such as building rental and purchase of equipment come from the Diocesan Justice & Peace account. This is quite separate from the Destitute Asylum Fund.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO
D.H&N DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND AND SENT TO:

Leah Stephenson, Our Lady of Lourdes Deaf Centre. 2 Summerhill Grove, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 6EE.

OR a **STANDING ORDER** can be set up using the following link http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/social_concerns/justice_and_peace.php and follow the instructions in the Donation section towards the bottom of the page.