

## 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 SPRING 2019

### News at a glance

- **WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF SPACE AND WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DISCONTINUE MOST CLOTHES DISTRIBUTION.**
- We are currently averaging over 50 new clients per 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 are using the Diocese Facebook and Twitter feeds to encourage people to donate to the Project.

### CLOTHES

We are very limited for space at Summerhill Grove. The ever increasing number of clients coming through our doors mean that we need extra space and volunteer time for food distribution, which is our priority. Something has to give and we have decided that this must be clothes. So, reluctantly, we wish to inform our supporters that we will no longer be taking donations of clothes. There are some exceptions to this and these are outlined on the following page.

### 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. 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 Out of date products or products already opened.

### Clothes and others items

 Ladies' and gents' coats 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 and sheets

 Clean and good condition towels

 Kitchen crockery (including large clean pans)

 Suitcases and Backpacks

 Electrical goods or sharp utensils

 Children and baby clothes or toys

 Clothes other than those listed above

We have well over 600 active adult asylum seekers who come to us looking for help. The table on the next page shows the 54 countries of origin. 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	Congo	Guinea	Libya	Sudan
Albania	Cameroon	India	Morocco	Syria
Algeria	Comoros	Iran	Malawi	Togo
Angola	China	Iraq	Nigeria	Tunisia
Armenia	DRC	Israel	Pakistan	Uganda
Bangladesh	Egypt	Ivory Coast	Palestine	Ukraine
Barbados	El Salvador	Jordan	Russia	Vietnam
Belarus	Eritrea	Kurdistan	Senegal	Western Sahara
Botswana	Ethiopia	Kuwait	Sierra Leone	Yemen
Burundi	Gambia	Lebanon	Somalia	Zimbabwe
Chad	Georgia	Liberia	Sri Lanka	

## 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 18 years 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. It 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.

## MESSAGE FROM ACTION FOUNDATION

Action Hosting matches volunteers offering a spare bedroom in their home with a destitute asylum seeker for an agreed period of time. To date this project has provided over 2,600 nights of accommodation to vulnerable destitute asylum seekers living in Tyne and Wear. They are holding hosting evenings at their office on Melbourne Street in Newcastle on 26<sup>th</sup> February and March, starting at 1730.

## OUR CURRENT SITUATION

It is now 18 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 recent months, that figure is more typically 50-60 and has reached 90 on occasion. 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](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.