

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER 11

August 2020



What a busy time the last few months have been for The Gate. **Since March until the end of July, we have distributed 1700 food parcels & toiletry packs supporting 388 people that includes 897 families and 803 single people. Our wonderful volunteers have delivered 6695 bags of food during this time and 80,388 meals have been distributed.** During this time, we also accepted self-referrals and for the first time since our charity was founded and we provided a weekend emergency referral line to ensure that the most vulnerable were supported throughout this national crisis! Referrals are starting to reduce in numbers again, but the service is still busier than normal and we are continuing to follow strict safeguarding procedures to ensure everyone's safety.

As our new volunteers are returning to work after a period of being furloughed, we urgently need to recruit new volunteers to assist with tasks within our foodbank. However, we would like to offer volunteering opportunities to our existing volunteers before seeking public support. We can assure you that we have stringent one-way systems, appropriate PPE and social distancing guidelines in place and we are constantly updating our risk assessments and practice policies based upon Government guidance and regulations.

Our School Uniform Bank was also really busy this year. We were delighted to provide **545 children from nursery age to 16+ with clothing and equipment to return to school with dignity and pride.** It's was a challenging time though! We had to source alternative premises, create strict safeguarding procedures and a new volunteer group was required to assist during the sorting period and Open Week. However, it was all good fun, although hard work and the Clacks community really came forward to help us. Alongside our wonderful Gate volunteers, staff members from Ochilview Housing, Clacks Council, CTSI, and MSP Keith Brown, Counsellor Ellen Forson, Members of Ludgate Church all rolled their sleeves up and helped out throughout this busy time! We even made it on to the STV and BBC news as well as Good Morning Britain the following week. Adrienne was ironing at 6.30am in France and put the TV on to watch the Scottish news when Marie's face suddenly popped up on her TV screen!!

We are hoping to open our Community Café and Soup Pot service again soon as we know many people rely upon The Gate Centre for social, emotional and physical support. We are patiently awaiting Government guidance for the go ahead! We will keep you informed! As soon as any decisions have been made, you will be the first people to know!

Jackson's Journeys



Jackson has been to Oban twice over the last two months and he also has a new friend, Puffin the Penguin!



Join Our Next
Gatekeepers Meeting

zoom 
Video Conferencing

**Wednesday 26th August.
3pm – 3.45pm**

Invitations will be emailed to
volunteers this week!

Please wear a mask in
The Gate Centre when
social distancing is
restricted.



