



Battling on through the pandemic!

Despite the pandemic we have continued to provide support and guidance to our clients, by phone or through virtual contact rather than face to face and we have continued to supply food parcels when needed. But the support we have been able to continue to provide has only been possible due to the willingness of our staff and volunteers to keep us operational, working from home when possible, and keeping the food bank turning over, and due to the support of local organisations and businesses, and our generous funders. So THANK YOU one and all. YOU have made a difference that's enabled us to make a difference to peoples' lives.



Support worker Sadie working from home

How has it been for us...

Our Senior Support Worker Marina said: *"Working from home has been a mix of pro's and con's for me; I miss seeing my clients and the team face to face but we adapted really quickly to virtual working, meaning current and new clients to our service have still been able to access support. It felt really strange at first and quiet, so quiet, but after a couple of weeks it has become my new 'normal' and I have a good routine in place. On the plus side, I certainly don't miss my daily commute of 70 miles and my car is enjoying the rest! I have also discovered one of the problems with working from home is that you can make as many sandwiches as you want and it turns out I want a lot of sandwiches!"* 😊



Nice sandwich, Marina!

...and for our clients?

One of Nina and Sadie's clients recently said: *"I wish I had known about The Basement Project years ago, I would have loved the support for longer. The Basement has been the best service I've known and you have helped me with things that I struggle with, whereas other people have just talked to me. Talking is important too, but it's part of a bigger picture and you have helped with everything"*. And a quote from one of Zoe's clients: *"I really appreciate your support, you never judge and are always helpful, thank you for everything"*

We ran an on line "Pounds for Parcels" campaign on 5th May with the aim of raising £500 to fund 20 food parcels. The response was amazing and we smashed our target in less than 7 hours! A huge thank you to everyone who donated - the money has helped to keep our food bank stocked during this difficult time, when it has been understandably more difficult for people to donate food items. We are looking to run a similar campaign at Christmas as part of The Big Give Christmas Challenge - contact Kelly at kelly.turner@basementproject.org.uk if you are interested in taking part.



Keep informed
and join the fun!





Thanks Billy...you're a star!



On 25th May Billy Diamond, a local driver from Droitwich organised a sponsored convoy to raise money for local food banks, as he had heard an interview on BBC Hereford and Worcester with a charity that had no food to give out. 200 drivers set out from Cannock and drove to Strensham Services and back again. Other convoys set out along the M5, M25, M4 M62 and M60, and in total they raised £23,000 for food banks. Billy has kindly donated £1,000 of this to The Basement Project, as we have helped out his son in the past. A huge thank you to Billy and all the drivers who took part! (Right – Billy with CEO Jackie at The Basement)



Thank you Western Power...

Nearly £10,000 was awarded to us from Western Power Distribution. Half has funded new laptops and headsets so we can run a more efficient service from home, while the rest is being used to cover clients' emergency costs such as topping up electricity and gas bills and keeping the foodbank stocked with fresh items. Thanks Western Power!

...and our local supermarkets for their continues support - CEO Jackie (right) with another food donation from Morrison's.



Thanks also to Lib Dems (£350), Old Bromsgrove Masonic Lodge (£715), Bromsgrove Lions (£100), Bumble Hole eggs (£500), Charities Trust (£341.77), Waitrose (£255), Dance for Carers (£720), all who donated on line, Bromsgrove United Charities who funded a new cooker for a client, Darran Moore and Kerry Palmer who held an on-line bingo game to raise funds for us with nearly 100 players, and Hannah Williams & Susan Kennedy who made us 50 face masks for staff and clients (left)



Other News

- ✓ Thanks to The Rotary Club who have supported us again this year with their Midlands Community Draw raffle. Due to Covid, tickets available from: <https://midlandscommunitydraw.org.uk/buy-tickets/>
- ✓ Monday 1st June was the start of Volunteers Week - we held a zoom quiz for all of our volunteers to say thank you. We also dropped little thank you gifts on their doorsteps to enjoy during the quiz!
- ✓ We've launched our **new live web chat service** for young people up to 25 who can now talk to a support worker directly from our website by clicking on the chat icon. The service is manned Monday - Friday 11am-4pm. Support workers continue to be available via phone and Skype.

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