



## Christmas hampers a great success

A huge thank you to our pledgers, the Four Acre Trust and everyone who donated to our Big Give Christmas Challenge this year. We managed to raise an amazing £10,912 (£11,824 with Gift Aid), which supported our food bank and enabled us to provide **272 Christmas Hampers** to local young people and families in need.

(Picture left shows Jax with some hampers ready for delivery). This is a huge increase in the number supplied last year, so thank you so much to everyone who donated. It meant a lot to us but even more to those who received a hamper, as some of the feedback below clearly shows:

*"I was feeling a fraud claiming it as we do have food each week, and then I saw the handcream and the body lotion and burst into tears. Stuff I've just gone without. I haven't seen this much food in our house all at once in a long time. Thank you" ... "Thank you so much it honestly means a lot. I was trying not to cry. You have helped me out here, so thank you so so much" ... "Hi I am sooo overwhelmed with all the things you have given me and my family, I can't thank you guys enough"*

## Basement Autumn/Winter Photo Gallery



**Left:** The Wellbeing Tree in

Bromsgrove held a Pumpkin Party in October Half Term and donated a percentage of the proceeds to us, and also collected items for the food bank. Thank you to Manie and the team; **Centre:** In October we also held a Halloween competition and Harper was the lucky winner (scary or what?) **Right:** Bromsgrove Ladies Circle went out with the Santa Sleigh, which is run by the Round Table every year. As we are their charity of the year, some of the money raised will be donated to The Basement Project, so thank you ladies (and Santa, of course!).

**More Thanks...** In the last quarter we received financial support from many individuals and organisations including Butchers Block; Bromsgrove School; Moyola Charity; Amplette Bridge Club; Asda; Cupitts Jewellers; Bromsgrove WI; Bromsgrove Lib Dems; Equilibrium; Sonny's Fryer; NHS Retirement Fellowship; HoW College; Bromsgrove United Trust; Altered Images Gym; Alvechurch Crafty Ladies; Bromsgrove Ladies Circle; Grantham Yorke Trust; Charitable Giving and many of our local churches. So **THANK YOU** and **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated food and cosmetics for our clients. We couldn't do our work without you.



## Filming at The Basement

Staff from Stoke Road Co-Op have been helping us film content for our TikTok account. They came and cooked up some goodies in our kitchen to show how to make a simple pasta dish on a budget. Thank you to Loz and the team!

We are also working with students from HOW college to film some more content for our social media channels, so watch this space!

## Basement Home Starter Packs

Thanks to kind financial support from individuals and local businesses, we have begun purchasing and delivering home starter packs for clients who move into their first tenancy. The packs include a kettle, toaster, microwave, kitchen cutlery and crockery, cooking utensils, cookware and bathroom essentials. These packs take some of the strain off our clients' finances at what can be a very expensive and stressful time. A great example of how the donations from our supporters are directly improving the quality of life of young people.



## New Volunteer Sam

In January we welcomed Sam, a new volunteer. Speaking of her time at The Basement she said, *"I'm a Newman University student currently doing a placement at the Basement Project during the month of January. I have to complete 100 hours of voluntary work as part of a module on my course, which is a degree in 'Working with Children, Young People and Families'. I am very grateful to CEO Jerry for giving me the opportunity to work here and really enjoying my time here. I have been involved in various parts of the charity including attending drop-in sessions and floating support meetings with young people in need; assisting with the Foodbank; making up food parcels for young people and collecting donations from local residents and businesses. I've been overwhelmed at how much support the local residents and businesses give the Basement as well as the service our staff deliver. All members of the team are so passionate about what they do as they continue trying to make changes to young people's lives, and it's easy to see how much the young people are grateful for this help."*



## Future ideas...

We are looking forward to launching some **Pop-up Drop in's** around the county. We will be working with Newstarts to offer services in the North, and have secured the Community Centre at Wallace House in Evesham to run a drop in service there, which launches on 28th January. Watch this space for more news in the months to come!

