

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

NOVEMBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021
Liverpool Six Community
Association



CHRISTMAS 2020

SANTAS WORKSHOP COVID-19

FOOD HAMPERS GROTTO FOOD UNION

SANTAS SLEIGH SCHOOL UNIFORMS

BABY BANK BREAKFAST CLUBS

DELIVERIES

LOCKDOWN TIERS



NOVEMBER 2020

PROJECTS WITH SCHOOLS

We continued our projects with schools throughout November, providing school uniforms, bread, butter, jam, crumpets, bagels, cereal, milk and fruit to ensure that no child was hungry. As the children were placed in bubbles schools are unable to hold breakfast clubs and were going into school hungry, by providing breakfast goods the children are happy and sustained until lunch. We deliver to each school twice weekly to ensure they always have enough breakfast items for the children.



ONGOING SUPPORT TO OUR OLDER RESIDENTS WHO ARE STILL SHIELDING, FAMILIES IN DEPRIVATION/ FURLOUGHED/ JOB LOSSES.

We continued our projects to feed families living in deprivation, furloughed and those who had lost their jobs along with our older residents still shielding and children who would normally attend our Youth Club. In November we supported 2500 children each week with breakfast at school, 100 children with meals and snacks each week, 1600 families, 400 couples, and 540 older residents to ensure their mental and physical health and well-being which is our priority.



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

At the beginning of November we began our very limited fundraising plan to ensure children would wake on Christmas morning to new Toys, Pyjama's, Clothes and Food. We were determined that children would visit a Grotto and meet Father Christmas and his Elves and a pandemic would not hinder this. We purchased a sleigh and trailer which was decorated by Volunteers to a very high standard and also a blow up Grotto with an entrance and exit door which was perfect for all Health and Safety legislation and social distancing etc.....

We emailed hundreds of companies to ask for donations of any kind and used our social media platforms to capacity to drum up support. We also began on line raffles as a fun way for adults to support us. We received 1000's of donations from the public and had numerous drop-off points around the City. The response was overwhelming and although it would be a much different Christmas to 2019 it would be the best possible under the circumstances.



SANTAS WORKSHOP

In mid-November our Main Hall was transformed into Santa's workshop and was filled to capacity with 1000's of toys, pairs of Pyjama's and clothes ready for Operation Christmas to begin. The Christmas Lights began to shine. Staff and Volunteers had a slight spring in their step as we had managed to pull off the impossible under the most horrendous of circumstances and we were elated with our achievements. The referrals for support began to come in thick and fast via email, phone, our website and social media platforms. We continued to work tirelessly to ensure every referral could be honored. From 1st December the madness began and Father Christmas and his Grotto visited 12 schools/nurseries and every child received a present. Our sleigh also rode throughout the streets of Liverpool each evening in December and stopped in 8 shopping car parks, outside both Everton and Liverpool football stadiums and 4 Community Centre's across the City to ensure as many children as possible met Father Christmas. A total of 3600 children met Santa in his Grotto at schools and received a gift. Unfortunately it is impossible to put a total figure on how many actually saw our sleigh and visited the grotto at the locations mentioned above as the turn out to each location was magnificent and it was impossible to collate figures for these events. The number ran into 1000's and the feedback has been absolutely amazing. Over 8000 families and older people received support in December ensuring a magical Christmas for all.



FOOD UNION

Staff and volunteers worked extremely hard to launch our food union back in March 2020 and obviously with lock-down it was only open to the public for 3 weeks. We were delighted to re-open our doors in November. Our food union enables residents to shop for branded goods at a very low cost. The food union came about after months of consultations with residents. We knew many residents only come to us when they have not eaten for days as there is a stigma and shame about using a Foodbank, this is detrimental to their Mental and Physical health and well-being. Our Food Union is empowering residents to become self-sufficient. Ensuring they are stronger and more confident and keeping their dignity. It has increased the number of local residents reporting financial stability as a result of Liverpool 6 Community Association Food Union. Local residents report better quality of life, family relationships as a result of engaging with Liverpool 6 Community Association. Increased confidence within local families and Improved health and wellbeing. We have over 800 members and this figure is increasing weekly as word spreads and also the power of social media.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH LOCKDOWN

The news we all dreaded but expected came in early January. Somehow the impact seems much worse this time on all. Passion and commitment has kept staff and volunteers here at the L6 Centre motivated to support all who need us although lockdown is taking its toll on all. More and more families who are furloughed or have lost their jobs are struggling financially and our food parcels are crucial to their emotional, physical and mental health and well-being. Our older people still shielding depend on food parcels especially if they have no family or friends for support and of course our children who have been absolute heroes throughout this whole ordeal and miss their friends and normality more than any of us. Since the beginning of January we deliver between **140-170** food parcels per day 5 days a week. We also continue to deliver activity packs and meals and snacks to all children who would normally attend our youth club, we have also given out **75** slow cookers to our children's families to do some online cooking classes with them all. We have delivered to **31** sheltered schemes ensuring every resident receives food. In total in January, February and first week in March **9400** food parcels have been issued throughout Liverpool. Our uniform and baby projects have also continued throughout lock down providing new uniforms, prams, cots, baby gates, nappies and milk to families across the City.





Uniforms being collected

Katie from Liverpool children services picking up pram

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Our report captures only a little insight into what has been achieved over the past 15 months.

As the whole country listened with baited breath to the P.M's roadmap out of lockdown, we like everybody are delighted that some form of normality may begin again within the next 8 weeks and we are busy drawing up a new daily planner to accommodate events back here at the L6 Centre. We are very keen to provide lunch clubs, afternoon tea events, cabarets, day trips, short holidays and a youth club. We have sent out a questionnaire to all receiving food parcels as well as our mailing list to understand what events and courses residents would like to see when lock down ends at the Centre and across the City.

We know the future will be a very challenging time and we are all very eager to put March 2020 - Mid 2021 behind us and focus on the future. We will continue to strengthen communities, give purpose, encouragement and hope and face the coming months with passion and boundless enthusiasm.



SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to give Special Thanks to Donna Scully at Carpenters Group, Ian Donaldson at Atlanta Group and Christophe Leemanyan at Kinderton's for our wonderful new van. I cannot express what a difference this van has made to us, you are all amazing. Donna even managed a little ride in our sleigh when delivering the van!!!



Thank You

National Lottery Community Fund, Steve Morgan Foundation, Henry Smith Charity, Children in Need, Community Foundation, LCR, LCVS, Martin Lewis, Garfield Weston, Anne Duchess of Westminster, Torus Foundation. Plus Dane. Onward. MeccaBingo KnottyAsh. PLSFoundation. Warburton's. Buzz Bingo Wavertree Park. Morrison's, Alex Ferry Foundation, 23 Foundation, Everton in the Community, Liverpool Football Club, Local Councillor's from various wards across the City. This support would not have been possible without you all.

You have helped to keep families & older people safe and well fed throughout this pandemic & L6 Centre will be forever grateful for your continued support.

From day one of Lockdown the team at Liverpool 6 Centre have been an inspiration, every member of staff and volunteer have been selfless, they have been instrumental in achieving so many fantastic outcomes and 1000's of families, children and older people have slept a little easier because of their support during these awful times, they have always gone above and beyond to ensure the emotional, physical and mental health and well-being of the Community but during this pandemic they have been outstanding and I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to each and every one of them.