Christmas 2020 end of Event report

Due to Covid restrictions, the Parish council resolved to simply distribute 300 presents to the local children this year using the Hhhf and living hope food bank settings.

Karen was asked to purchase 300 gifts at approx £2 -£3 each, wrapping paper, cello tape and tags. As usual Karen made some amazing purchases and there was a lovely range of presents for all ages.

Living Hope had passed on their numbers for children they support. 86 presents were wrapped and sent up with PJ Haywood for distribution in their setting.

HHHF was lucky to be in the unique position as a recognised Covid 19 emergency food hub, that Covid rules allowed us to hold a grotto. In order to make things super Covid safe, Hhhf split the grotto into 2 sessions 19th December for general families and 21st December for youth club families and food hub users.

Incredible generosity from the following individuals and organisations were received and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved including all our incredible volunteers. This year truly was made of Christmas Spirit.

David Stevenson and his wonderful wife headed an appeal for presents for our vulnerable households through the Heath Village community group. An amazing 200+ presents were wrapped and delivered to the hub.

A member of the public dropped over 40 gifts of sweet bags, fully stocked pencil cases and family biscuit tins.

A £50 donation allowed us to purchase a pallet of stocking fillers from giving world.

Rural action Derbyshire paid for 1.5 tonnes of food and contributed £360 So we could buy beautiful meat hampers which were kindly supplied by Elliot the butchers.

Zoe Brittain from the gift bag Appeal collected in 200+ gift bags through the local schools and networks.

Paul Oxborough and PJ Haywood for their unique and wonderful Santa performances.

As a result of all the incredible generosity on the 19th December we were able to supply 76 children with an amazing gift bags containing 3 presents each.

On the 21st we were able to give away 185 gift bags with approx 5- 6 presents in each bag. At this session we also supplied 450 bags of food to our service users. Approx 15 families also received presents and food through delivery, due to isolation after a Covid incident at Heath Primary school prevented many families from attending.

Because of the incredible generosity we were able to also do the following

Sharon Leany distributed to 16 Vulnerable children food hampers and presents from the wider local area. And 40 gift bags were sent to the Aruba nightclub in Chesterfield to support their 'Christmas Star appeal' which supports vulnerable families and the homeless.

A further 300kg of food that was surplus to need, was given to Sheffield homeless soup kitchen project, helping to produce over 200 meals for the homeless through the Christmas period.

It has been exhausting, wrapping all the presents and dealing with food distribution not to mention the forever changing Covid rules, but I am incredibly pleased with how well we did in the current crisis.

The feedback we have received has been incredible from both Local residents and those that we were able to support further a field. Many families were incredibly thankful for the gifts and food hampers and 1 mother commented that she was incredibly grateful for our assistance which enabled her Autistic son to have his first stress free Santa visit in many years, we also received multiple comments on our successful Covid safe approach and can confirm to date no cases of Covid have been linked to our grotto or our weekly hub.

Thoughts for Christmas 2021

Understandably I hope by this Christmas the crisis is over and we can return to the normal status quo but if the situation doesn't resolve I'm confident we can successfully mirror the format, although I highly doubt the generosity from the public and local community groups can ever be matched, to this heart-warming extent again. It truly was phenomenal.

Cllr Angela Parry (Events Chair)