



THE HUDDLE

NEWS FROM HIGHAMS PARK COMMUNITY FOOD HUB



WHAT A RESPONSE!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Hub over the past few weeks. Premier League player Marcus Rashford's campaign has focused the nation's attention on the issue of food poverty. And, oh, how the amazing people of Highams Park have rallied to support children and families during half-term and beyond!

We received and handed over a substantial amount of food this month, and worked with local schools to supply half-term food parcels for families. We can't thank you enough for your generosity and kindness.

EXCITING NEWS!

After months of lobbying, we're pleased to have been officially approved by the London Borough of Waltham Forest as one of its recognised food banks. This means that the borough will promote the Hub, which will help us to reach more families in need.

It will also give us access to a wider network, so that we can access, share and redistribute food supplies as necessary.



We would like to say a huge thank you to our 90-plus volunteers who have worked so hard to make the Hub what it is today, and to our local councillors, from all parties, who have lobbied tirelessly to get us recognised.

We would also like to thank David Lowe and his team at the council who have been brilliant in the past few weeks – they've helped us to make the transition from a family run service, supporting five households, to an established food hub that has supported more than 150 families and provided more than 20,000 meals (so far!).



LOCKDOWN 2

We're now in the midst of our second national lockdown. The Hub is still open and giving families food parcels. If you need food supplies or know of anyone else that does at this difficult time, please get in touch – the Hub is here for everyone.



DONATION UPDATE



You might have seen the Hub-branded trolley in Tesco. We'd like to say a massive thank you to Tesco shoppers for your continuing generosity.

We know that many people want to make donations but can't get to the Hub, so we now have 12 Hub Drop Boxes dotted around our local streets. Ziggy's, the café on Signal Walk (opposite Tesco), is one.

A full list of Drop Box locations can be found on our Facebook page.

Thank you to all our hosts for making this possible.

Did you spot the Highams Park Halloween windows? Thanks to the help of the organiser, ARC (the Arts and Culture arm of the Highams Park Planning Group), Drop Box locations were promoted on its map and we received a bumper crop of donations. We loved the green pumpkins, the spooky displays and the amazing community atmosphere on the night.

Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative.



WHAT'S COMING UP?

Christmas will soon be upon us and we're planning something special for all our beneficiaries. We'd like to include a treat in every Christmas food parcel, so we'd love to receive delicious goodies during December. Keep an eye on our social media pages for updates.

As well as including some tasty treats in our parcels, we want to make sure that every family has the opportunity to give and receive gifts, if they want to. We are working with other groups in the community to see how best to do this. Watch out for further information on how to be involved.



Meet Helen

Why do you volunteer?

I volunteer to feel part of the community, and to spend my time doing something fun and valuable with like-minded people. I'm also gaining work experience while looking for a job.

How did you get involved?

I graduated in July and was thinking about volunteering when I saw a call for volunteers on Highams Park Food Aid's Facebook page. I was immediately welcomed on to the team, and was given more and more projects to get involved with as time went on.

What do you do at the Hub?

Although I started out in 'back of house', I am now the administrator for the Hub. I register and coordinate the volunteers, greet the beneficiaries and help to organise food storage systems.

What do you enjoy the most?

My favourite part is having the opportunity to meet every volunteer and beneficiary personally. Our open-hours sessions feel more like those at a community centre than a food top-up service.

What does volunteering give you?

Volunteering gives me a valuable way to spend my time and a positive outlook on life while I look for a job. It keeps me grounded and moving forward during an incredibly uncertain time.

VOLUNTEER FOCUS



GET INVOLVED

There are plenty of ways to get involved at the Hub:

- 1: sign up to www.easyfundraising.org – every time you shop online, you'll raise money for us
- 2: make a cash donation online at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/HPFoodHub
- 3: donate food and household essentials at one of the Drop Box locations in Highams Park or Chingford (see our Facebook page)
- 4: volunteer your time – if you'd like to get involved, drop us a line at highamparkfoodaid@gmail.com



Facebook: @HPFoodHub
Twitter: @HighamsHub
Instagram: @HPFoodHub
Email: highamparkfoodaid@gmail.com

DONORS

We would like to say a special thank you to our major donors:

The Coronavirus Community Support Fund, provided by the Government and distributed by the National Lottery

Highams Park and Hale End, Hatch Lane, and Larkswood wards for support via Community Ward Forum Funding

The London Community Response Fund, acting through City Bridge Trust

