

WOOD STREET MISSION

POST

SPRING 2020



WOOD
STREET
MISSION

**HELPING FAMILIES IN
MANCHESTER AND
SALFORD SINCE 1869**

www.woodstreetmission.org.uk



OUTPOST

Welcome to this latest edition of our newsletter. The beginning of the year was tinged with sadness with the news that one of our dear friends and former Wood Street Manager for some 27 years, Delayne Carpenter had passed away. Delayne was a great advocate of our work, who only last year agreed to record her memories of her time with the charity. It was fascinating to listen to her talk about her career with Wood Street, thankfully we were able to capture such an important phase of our history, which will now be preserved in our archives.

Our Family Basics project is now fully operational once more with our aim being to provide families with basic everyday items. From nappies to warm winter coats, we are proud of the range and quality of the items available.

This follows a hectic but hugely enjoyable Christmas project. Thanks to the generosity of our donors we were able to distribute over 11,000 fantastic new toys and gifts. Thanks to all concerned for contributing and for making the festive period such a special time for all our families.

We continue to appeal for books (both new and used) for our Books Forever project. This area of our work is increasing as more schools throughout Manchester and Salford request our Book Roadshows. This together with our Book Clubs, means that children's books are always in high demand!

Through our SmartStart project we'll continue to offer new/used school uniform and school accessories. With the addition of our Childhood Experiences, this promises to be another busy and challenging year as we aim to improve the life chances of local children living in poverty. Thanks to everyone that supports our work, your help and generosity is as ever, greatly appreciated.

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DES LYNCH – MANAGER
des@woodstreetmission.org.uk



IN MEMORY

In January we said goodbye to a very special lady. Delayne, a former Manager and staunch longstanding supporter of Wood Street, sadly passed away, shortly before what would have been her 80th birthday.

Delayne joined us in 1961, helping out in the office with book-keeping duties, "I'll just come for a month until you get somebody else" she told the Trustees at the time. Some 27 years later she was still here, "Because you know, Wood Street just gets to you."

In 1962 she became part of a Management team with Arnold Yates, with the two of them going on to transform Wood Street, so that it was more suited to the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Delayne oversaw the closure of the Wood Street holiday camp at Squires Gate, whilst then opening an outward bound centre in the Peak District. During this period a youth club was opening in Wood Street, which was attended by up to 230 children each week!

In 1988, after 27 years loyal and dedicated service Delayne decided to retire. But her involvement continued as a donor, supporting our projects.

Early last year we began the process of updating our archives, Delayne being an obvious candidate to approach, to see if she would be willing to share her memories of her long career. Delayne as ever couldn't have been more helpful and was delighted to assist. Her vast knowledge and attention to detail meant that we were able to capture and record a vital and influential period of our history.

We send our sincere condolences to Delayne's Husband Paul, her family and friends.

We provide practical help to help meet children's day-to-day needs and improve their life chances.



A LOOK BACK TO 2019

There are 75,480 children living in poverty in Manchester and Salford. That's enough children to fill Old Trafford. A sobering thought isn't it?

In 2019 our Family Basics project helped 3,784 children with clothing, bedding, toiletries, nappies, and baby equipment. We helped 3,191 children with brand new school uniform. 273 children enjoyed our Book Clubs and in the academic year 2018/19 our Book Roadshows in schools provided 929 children with 9,500 books!

All of this support makes a tangible difference to the lives of local children. The clothing and essentials bring the obvious benefits but the books bring escapism, creativity, a sense of pride and literacy skills that will help the children progress in education and ultimately help them to break the cycle of poverty.

With your continued support we will continue to provide for those who need our help and a chance to break that cycle. After all, we've been doing it for over 150 years, we can and still do, make a difference.

Wood Street Mission turns a glimmer of light into a beacon of hope. Your work is fantastic. The heart and soul and dedication that every member of your team has is amazing. I have been on the receiving end of your kindness on numerous occasions in the past and wouldn't have survived without your much appreciated help. For this I am eternally grateful.

POVERTY TRUTH

14 million people are living in poverty in the UK with 4 million of those being children.

Certain pockets of the UK are in dire need of change and the latest report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation highlights the growing problem of in-work poverty.

UK Poverty 2019/20 is the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's annual report on poverty levels in the UK.

Nationally, approximately 56% of people living in poverty are from a working family.

7 in 10 children living in poverty are from a working family. When we look at the families who were referred to us in 2019, just over a third of them are in work yet still need our support.

Poverty restricts the opportunities available to people and limits their access to things that most of us take for granted.

Simply nipping somewhere on the bus can cost the equivalent of a meal and tough choices need to be made. Families can't deal with unexpected expenses like the washing machine breaking down and can find themselves falling into a spiralling debt. Debt being the second biggest reason for referral to us.

We are working closely with the various partners in our region to tackle the issues we face on our doorstep but we face incredibly challenging times.

For more information on the UK Poverty Report 2019/20 please head to www.jrf.org.uk



BOOKS FOREVER APPEAL

We are looking for brand new books that will be distributed throughout the year via our Family Basics project, Book Clubs and Roadshows.

The deadline for donating books to our Appeal is 3rd April and you can find all of the details on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Books can be dropped off with us Monday to Friday from 8.30-4.30. Books play a vital role in our work. They allow children some escapism, the ability to dream, the obvious benefit of deepening their knowledge and of course, vital literacy skills. Education is key to ending the cycle of poverty and with your help and the power of books, we can achieve so much.

COMMUNITY BOOK SHELVES

In 2019 our community book shelves increased to 14 and there are now regular deliveries of books to a whole variety of places throughout Manchester and Salford giving children regular access to books.

They are invited to take one book a week, recorded by the centre in which the 'shelf' is based. They can keep the book at home or return it should they choose to do so. Most children keep the books! In 2019 we distributed 5970 books to our Community Book Shelves.



BOOK CLUBS

Families on a low income can struggle to afford to buy books for their children. Our school holiday Book Clubs aim to inspire a love of reading, encourage families to read together and improve literacy. Thanks to your valuable support, children can choose from a wide range and take home a big bag of their very own books from the thousands we take to every event.

143 families and 272 children attended the Book Clubs in 2019

The CLINK restaurant provide healthy packed lunches for the children which we collect fresh on the day and the children have a very busy few hours. With school holidays proving to be an expensive time of year for our families, these free events are always well attended.



BOOK ROADSHOWS

During 2018 we were concerned that we weren't reaching those children who were in the greatest need of books and literacy support.

Following two incredibly successful school visits, our Books Forever Roadshows were born! During the academic year 18-19, 929 children and young people encountered our Roadshows and approximately 9500 books were distributed. In late 2019 we had an incredible day over at Lower Kersal Community Primary School in Salford. The children loved our Book Roadshow and they all got to take home 7 books each in their special red bags.

We were delighted that Yvette Fielding and her husband Karl Beattie also joined us on the day. Yvette read from her new book 'Archie the Ghost Hunter' and the children all got to take a copy home.



SMARTSTART

Our SmartStart project helps families meet some of the costs of going to school. During the Summer, families can order new non-branded school uniform items that their children need, in time for going back to school in September.

Many families have to cut back on day to day basics or get into debt to be able to afford uniform and other kit for school. SmartStart aims to help alleviate some of the pressure placed on families at such an expensive time of year.

It's essential that all children feel equal, arrive at school warm and dry but most of all we want to enable children from low income families to fit in and achieve at school. A good education is key to being able to break the cycle of poverty.

We are very aware that children grow like they've been planted in 'grow bags' so for the rest of the year, we aim to provide new and good quality used donations. These items are all accessible through our Family Basics project which is open all year round (except for Christmas).

We are always looking for donations of:

- Non-branded (no school logo) school uniform items including jumpers, sweatshirts, cardigans, skirts, pinafores, trousers, polo shirts, shirts, blouses, in all standard school colours and age ranges
- Sports kit such as shorts, t-shirts, hoodies, joggers, fleeces, trainers and plimsolls
- Stationery such as pencil cases, pens, folders, maths sets, calculators and dictionaries
- Dressing up costumes suitable for school events like World Book Day
- Useful everyday items like new socks, new underwear, hats, gloves, lunchboxes, school bags and sports bags.

You can help by

- Donating used and new school uniform and other school items.
- Hold a collection for items at your work, church or school.
- You can also choose to make a financial donation. We rely on donations to provide this and other services to families.

In 2019 our SmartStart project helped 3,191 children with school uniform and back to school essentials.

Help a local child to fit in and achieve at school

by donating school uniform, sports kit and stationery



WOOD STREET MISSION

26 Wood Street
Manchester M3 3EP
0161 834 3140

Twitter @WoodSt_Mission
Facebook WoodStreetMission
info@woodstreetmission.org.uk

SmartStart
MANCHESTER & SALFORD

Help them start smart at woodstreetmission.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1076327

It can cost in excess of £220 to kit out a child for school.

The service, the kindness of the staff and the quality of the products they give away, such a positive environment and the most is how everyone is equal thank you Wood Street Mission.



To everyone that has supported us, **THANK YOU!** Thanks to your support, we can continue to make a difference to the lives of thousands of local children. We can't possibly find enough room here to express our gratitude to you all but here is just a taster of what's been going on over the last few months...

CHRISTMAS 2019

3,684

3,684 children received Christmas presents from us

1,425

1,425 families given a happier Christmas thanks to your support

11,000

Over 11,000 gifts distributed



A LOWRY CHRISTMAS

In December, The Lowry Hotel treated a group of children from St Phillips Primary School to a fantastic Christmas Dinner. As always they went the extra mile to ensure the children had a day to remember. The children loved their dinner but especially liked the toilets! Thanks to everyone over at The Lowry Hotel.

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

In 2019 our good friends from BNY Mellon kindly donated over £20,000 and their Christmas activities were overwhelmingly generous.

They donated 608 toys, 254 books and activity packs, 42 packs of greetings cards and wrapping paper, 15 packs of chocolate and selection boxes and 90 volunteers in ONE week equating to 630 hours of volunteering. As you can see from the image above, they couldn't wait to get festive with 150 Christmas jumpers to mark our 150th Anniversary. Thanks to everyone at BNY Mellon.



CHARITY AT THE CORE

Well done and thank you to everyone at Core Talent for raising £2097 and donating 150 items to our projects. We were delighted to be your Charity Of The Year and thank you to everyone who supported us in the Pizza Run, Skydive, Tough Mudder and other campaigns.



£10,000 BANGER!

This year is the 5th year that our friends over at Lakeland Picnic have thrown their support behind our Christmas fundraising.

Lakeland Picnic kindly donated 50p from every sale of their Cumberland Sausage to us. Over the last 5 years this generosity has raised over £10,000!

Big thank you to everyone over at **BUD GARDEN CENTRE** in Burnage who raised £500 for our Christmas Appeal with their lovely Winter Warmer event.



A ROYAL RETIREMENT

Over Christmas, Debbie, Bill and Gwen from Kings Chambers volunteered with us.

Bill has championed Wood Street throughout his amazing 30+ years at Kings Chambers and has now retired. Happy Retirement Bill and thank you for your tireless support.



HELPFUL HIRE

Thanks to our friends over at HSS Hire who did an amazing job volunteering for us over Christmas, donating a fabulous selection of toys and have since donated an additional £130 towards our work. Thanks everyone.



LF EUROPE

Huge thanks to our friends over at LF Europe who donated a wonderful £3,972.37 this Christmas. Not only that, they came laden with toys too.

Simply wonderful.



MACK HAD OUR BACK!

Mack Davies, a young, local entrepreneur donated £1,000 worth of toys and gifts to our Christmas Appeal. Mack and his Dad spent a great day loading up their van from various local stores and Mack's generosity has made a massive difference to so many local children. Thank you Mack (and Dad of course!)



CUT ABOVE

Sami and Jodi decided to raise money for us in a different way.

They shaved their heads! Not only did they beat their target of £700, raising in excess of £1,000 online, they also donated a huge bag of toys and treats, thank you. You look fabulous!



OPENMONEY

A HUGE thank you to OpenMoney for raising an incredible £10,274 for us in 2019 from all sorts of activities and events, along with over 200 volunteering hours. We have also been chosen as their 2020 Charity Of The Year!

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TAST held a traditional Catalanian draw for us in the run up to Christmas with the lucky winner receiving a hamper (worth £500) of incredible products all donated by their suppliers including a £50 voucher from Tast. Thanks to everyone.

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In his Shrieval year and in celebration of our 150th Anniversary, the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester made a generous donation of £1,000 from **THE BEAVERBROOKS CHARITABLE TRUST** to help support our work.

Our congratulations to Beaverbrooks who were also celebrating a special anniversary of 100 years.

STAY IN TOUCH

If you've already signed up or are taking part in an activity for us then get in touch. We'd love to hear all about it and see your pics. You can contact us using these details and we'll be in touch.

Twitter @WoodSt_Mission

Facebook WoodStreetMission

Instagram woodstreetmission
info@woodstreetmission.org.uk

Reading transforms lives

Donate new books for children from low income families in Manchester and Salford and help inspire a love of reading.

The more that you read
The more things you will know
The more that you learn
The more places you'll go

Dr. Seuss

Here's how to support our Appeal



Donate brand new books suitable for children aged 0-16 years old. Why not donate your favourite book as a child? From *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to *Harry Potter*, *Matilda* to *The Gruffalo*! Fiction and non-fiction both welcome.



Give securely online at www.woodstreetmission.org.uk



Spread the word – share our Appeal online using **#BooksForeverAppeal**



We are encouraging donations to be with us by **Friday 3 April**. Books will be distributed to the children we support via our Family Basics service and our Book Clubs and Roadshows.

We will continue to welcome donations of good quality pre-loved books the rest of the year.

**BOOKS
FOREVER**

You can drop books off with us at 26 Wood Street, M3 3EF from Monday to Friday 8.30am–4.30pm.

To arrange a collection please call 0161 834 3140 or email collections@woodstreetmission.org.uk

APPEAL

Please note: We are incredibly grateful for the many donations of Easter Eggs we have previously received at this time of year. However, in keeping with our focus of improving children's life chances, we will instead from now on focus on books for the children we support. We do hope you understand.