



Organisation Name	Restore Hope
Project Name	FoodLife Christmas Hampers
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities / Health & Wellbeing
Total Cost of project	£12430
Amount of Match Funding	£10,430
Amount being applied for	£2000
Amount suggested	£2000

Project Summary

The FoodLife Christmas Hamper project aims to bring joy to families who would not otherwise be able to afford a Christmas meal. We aim to deliver 225 Christmas hamper boxes and 75 Alternative Boxing Day Treat boxes to local families (The Boxing Day boxes will go to families that we regularly support who will be in receipt of a Christmas Hamper from King's Church Amersham). FoodLife currently delivers fresh vegetable and fruit boxes to nearly 200 local families. They each receive one box (of approx 16 portions) once a fortnight. These regular boxes will continue over the Christmas period. Christmas Boxes will be in addition to this and will contain a turkey joint with all the trimmings and desserts. In addition, there will be a Children's Nativity Book and a Hope magazine for adults. The Boxing Day alternative will contain Salad, the same fruit, sliced cooked Chicken and Beef, 3 cheeses, Butter, crackers, Part Baked Bread, Chocolate Log, Handmade Gingerbread, Restore Hope Chutney and Hot Chocolate along with the children's books and magazine. All hampers will be delivered by our normal volunteer team as well as the Restore Hope staff team. There are over 100 volunteers involved in packing and delivering hampers. Some packing volunteers for Christmas are being recruited from the families in receipt of regular FoodLife boxes so that they are able to give back to the FoodLife project.

FoodLife has been delivering food boxes to 200 local families since May. This number has steadily increased in recent weeks and we anticipate more referrals. We are a referral partner to Chiltern FoodBank and have seen a sharp increase in requests for vouchers throughout October (9 requests versus 2 per month since June) We currently have 20 referral partners into FoodLife (including Citizens Advice Bureau) and are now approaching FoodBank's remaining partners (probably resulting in another 40 partners) to invite them to refer into us for both usual FoodLife deliveries and Christmas hampers. We are also in conversation with Paul Irwin at The Buckinghamshire Council around supporting families with Child Protection plans and in crisis beyond those we already know.

How does the project address local priorities?

Health and Wellbeing

Accessing healthy fresh food is vital for children, young people and families to thrive. Many are unable to afford it or know how to cook or prepare. We provide skills for the latter and in the longer term, this is also a small part of teaching employable skills to a section of the community who are low skilled, many without qualifications which will come as we build connections to local people and encourage them to join Restore Hope to learn skills for life and volunteer.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening our communities, Protecting the vulnerable

Strengthening our communities: The Christmas hamper campaign will strengthen our local community by helping parents to gain self-esteem by providing a lovely Christmas Dinner. The FoodLife project provides healthy food to those most in need. We believe that this should continue over Christmas, perhaps the most important meal of the year. The FoodLife project has at its heart, the desire to connect families in to Restore Hope for courses and volunteer opportunities to learn gardening, harvesting, cooking and preservation skills. We aim to develop to have a farm shop selling produce to generate income, again offering opportunities to learn retail skills. Coupled with Restore Hope's wider family support ranging from our amazing delivery drivers checking in with families on the doorstep and feeding back to our family support team who also provide drop in cafe, 1:1 support and a range of personal development courses, we help families to move from being trapped in poverty to a place where they can thrive and see hope for a better future.

Protecting the vulnerable:: The FoodLife project ensures that vulnerable local families have a regular supply of healthy food and this is no different for Christmas. Parental anxiety and fear about how they manage Christmas will be reduced and they can feel that they can enjoy the day rather than be excluded and isolated. Children will not feel excluded when they return to school hearing how others celebrated. This will help equalise the Christmas experience for 300 families who would otherwise be able to enjoy celebrating.

How does the project achieve value for money?

Christmas can be an emotional time for many, especially for those without a support network or finance. To have support in place and beautiful healthy food hampers/gifts can make a huge difference to a family in crisis. Referrals for hampers to families who may not already be on our radar will help Restore hope put in place a package of support.

Community Board Coordinator comments

Restore Hope is a well-respected local charity delivering food and support to families with at least one child under the age of 16. Many of the residents are housing association residents, often with mental health problems, broken relationships, previous experience of domestic violence and in receipt of benefits. Their support locally has had a positive impact on families who have gained confidence and skills through the charity's learning programmes.

They are working well with other partners including Citizens Advice Bureau, Wycombe Women's Aid,

Waterside School, Victims First Specialist Service, St George's Church, (Little Chalfont), Paradigm Housing, Kings Church Chesham, Kings Church Amersham, Prestwood Foodbank , Chiltern Adult Mental Health Team, Connection Support, High Town Housing, Chartridge Combined School, Christians Against Poverty, Buckinghamshire Council (Children and Family Worker Team). They also work closely with Chiltern Foodbank and have a volunteer delivery team from a wide number of local churches. In addition, they sit on the Newtown Children's Centre Advisory Board and have established relationships with most other family support agencies on the Board, both statutory and voluntary together with the Children's Social Worker team and local Health Visitor team. The partnership working is imperative to their service delivery and beneficiaries of the partners will be contacted regarding a hamper.

Christmas is a difficult time for many, especially financially. The hampers will really lift the residents, provide a positive experience and will be received with much gratitude.

Restore Hope is also applying to Missenden and Amersham Boards and approaching donors to fund the rest of the project.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.