

THE BUDDY BAG FOUNDATION

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 1

Our most important priority is to ensure the safety of our volunteers and the safety of the children we serve. We do this by following guidance and best practice.

We are monitoring the latest Government information and advice for businesses and employers. The principal message: is for businesses and workplaces to encourage their employees to work at home wherever possible.

We rely on volunteers to come together in order to:

1. Raise funds and
2. Work together at Buddy Bag Brigades

1. FUNDRAISING EVENTS

With great regret, we have taken the decision to postpone all our physical fundraising events until the restrictions have been eased.

Cancelled and postponed events include:

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| 27 March | Sporting Bears Practical Classic Cars at NEC Birmingham |
| 22 April | BBF Spring Quiz at Aston Wood Golf Club |

Instead we will be on the lookout for creating new activities online. Your suggestions and recommendations will be gratefully received.

2. BUDDY BAG BRIGADES

At our usual Buddy Bag Brigades, we bring together 20 volunteers to donate 2 hours of their time and pack 180 Buddy Bags.

Regretfully we have taken the decision to postpone all our Buddy Bag Brigades until the restrictions have been eased.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How have we settled on 180 Buddy Bags?

Some of the items that we purchase are pre-packed in units of 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 20 or 24. In order to supply the age groups of 0-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and 13-16 year old girls and boys, a total of 180 Buddy Bags corresponds best with the pre-packed units we receive from our suppliers. We also benefit from purchasing discounts and minimises the delivery charges per purchased item.

Why not run smaller Buddy Bag Brigades?

Current advice is for employees to work at home wherever possible, we feel it is more responsible for us to postpone all Buddy Bag Brigades rather than running smaller Buddy Bag Brigades.

Could volunteers pack bags at home?

One of our achievements is to ensure that each item going into the Buddy Bag is of consistent quality, whilst we also receive value for money.

With our usual 180 Buddy Bag Brigade processes, our volunteer Materials Planning Angel and Refuge Co-ordinating Angel have got all their processes and systems finely honed, so it looks as if it all happens by magic. If we wanted each homeworking volunteer bag packer to receive deliveries from our suppliers, the workload on our volunteer Angels would dramatically increase.

There are several other potential problems associated with any homeworking volunteer bag packers. We currently consider that these problems are greater than the benefits to the refuges of receiving Buddy Bags.

What else can we do to help children in crisis?

We are on the look out for other ways that we can consider helping to support children in crisis. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

CONCLUSION

We have worked hard to build a solid network of donors, fundraisers, supporters and volunteers. This is reflected in our good financial situation.

The current situation is an opportunity for us to consider starting new activities and doing things differently.

As soon as we can, we look forwards to resuming physical fundraising events and our signature Buddy Bag Brigades.