



Newsletter Autumn 2011

For *BASICS BANK* the Autumn is a time for both “looking back” and “looking forward”. Having just completed our 7th year of providing emergency parcels of food and other essential items, we can report that this year:

*Over **820** food parcels were distributed to support around **1800** individuals. This total, which includes 188 special parcels provided at Christmas, shows a small increase on the previous year's figures, and as we look ahead we expect that trend to continue into 2012.*

Once again, local churches, voluntary organisations and many generous individuals have continued to support us, week by week, with donations of food and basic toiletry items. In addition, we have also received ongoing and generous financial support, enabling us to meet the necessary but increasing expenditure on shopping when our shelves need re-stocking. Not surprisingly, rising costs of food and other items have contributed to an increased weekly shopping bill – now averaging over £150 each week.

Fund-raising:

- Over the past year we have been very grateful to receive support from the General Manager of *Macdonald Elmers Court Hotel and Resort (Lymington)*, Jean-Marc Poumel, and his staff who generously hosted two special fund-raising events for us.
- Our ‘Fill a Sack for Santa’ Appeal last December was reported on in our Spring Newsletter, but this was followed by an Easter event.
- An Easter Monday ‘Eggs-travaganza’, held outdoors in gloriously warm spring sunshine, was much enjoyed by all the families who attended. The various activities and competitions arranged for the children – bouncy castle, egg painting, an egg hunt and egg and spoon races – were expertly organised by Elmers Court staff, and face painting was very popular! The delicious refreshments and all the prizes were kindly provided by our hosts.
- New support this year has also come from *Lymington Croquet Club* who held an Open Day on 13th July in Woodside Park and have generously donated to Basics Bank funds.
- We would like to acknowledge the support we have received during this past year from *County, District and Town Councils* and from *individual members* of those bodies.

And looking ahead ...

- ❖ *New Milton Lions* are planning to support us in early December, by courtesy of the New Milton supermarkets – *Morrisons, Tesco, Lidl and the Co-op*. Lions volunteers will invite supermarket customers to donate items of food as they complete their shopping and place these in the trolleys manned by volunteers at the entrances/exits to the stores. So, if YOU feel able to do so, PLEASE support Basics Bank in this simple but effective “trolley-drop” if YOU are doing your own shopping at that time. THANK YOU!
- ❖ Jean-Marc Poumel (Elmers Court) has also kindly agreed to host a further ‘Fill a Sack for Santa’ event, Sunday 11th December 2011, 2.30 – 4.30 pm. So why not make a date and come and join us in the warm and Christmassy atmosphere of Elmers Court Hotel on that occasion?

* * * * *HELP AT HARVEST* * * * *

As the summer draws to a close, we come again to a major source and opportunity of support for Basics Bank: *Harvest Festival* arrangements in schools and churches. Already we have been encouraged and reassured by the news that certain churches intend to give us support through their harvest festival arrangements. Each year this has proved to be a most generous contribution of food

and other essential items for those in our communities who will be needing our help. We hope and trust that once again we shall be able to count on your generosity, because it is the donations of food received in September and October harvest celebrations that keep our shelves well stocked for a good number of weeks. Without that help we’d find it difficult to manage.

Invitation: *The 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of BASICS BANK will take place on Thursday 22nd September 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Open Door Café at the front of the United Reformed Church in Lymington High Street. We shall have a Guest Speaker from ‘In Touch’ – one of our Referral Agencies. Coffee and biscuits will be served at the close of the formal meeting and there will be time for a chat.*

Would you like to get involved?

We are urgently looking for someone who would be willing to take over the job of Honorary Treasurer, as our current treasurer, who has served us so admirably for the past five years, is sadly unable to continue in office. Is there anyone “out there” with the necessary skills who would be willing to take on the job and give this invaluable and essential help to the Basics Bank Committee? If you think you may be able to help us, in this or in any other way, please make initial contact by phoning 01590 610008. Thank you.

For all *computer experts*, we’d like to let you know that making a donation to Basics Bank is even easier now! We are able to accept monetary donations using www.localgiving.com or you may visit the website www.basicsbank.org.uk and click on ‘make a donation’ which is found on the home page.

FINALLY, MANY THANKS TO ALL, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS ALIKE, WHO HAVE HELPED BASICS BANK IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

You will find us behind the United Reformed Church in Lymington High Street:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 10.00 - 12.00 noon. Tel 01590 610008