



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2010

In the six months since our last newsletter (September 2009) Basics Bank has continued to be both busy and well-supported. Special events have included:

- Our first Annual General Meeting on 24th September 2009. After that meeting those attending were invited to view our new permanent home which is situated at the rear of the URC in Lymington High Street.
- The Official Opening of our new premises on 15th December 2009, when our good friend, Councillor Elizabeth Lewis, performed the opening ceremony. Cllr Les Puttock (Chair of New Forest District Council) and Lymington Town Mayor, Cllr Jan Hawker, were also present. The sympathetic interest and encouragement given by local Councils/ Councillors is greatly appreciated, as is the moral and financial support which they continue to give us.

Members of the Committee have also enjoyed receiving invitations to speak about the work of Basics Bank on several occasions. We are anxious to reach as wide a public as we can, so please invite us to your organisation if you would like to know more, and we'll do our very best to provide you with a speaker.

ONCE MORE, WE AT BASICS BANK WISH TO RECORD OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO A WHOLE HOST OF PEOPLE FOR THEIR CONTINUING GENEROUS SUPPORT.

In the September Newsletter we asked churches and schools to help us by collecting tins and packets of food when celebrating HARVEST, or by making a cash donation, and the response was heart-warmingly generous, as always. 25 local church congregations and 10 local schools donated quantities of foodstuffs and money, so that for a number of weeks our shelves were stacked high, with the overflow packed away in crates for later use. Thank you very much indeed. IT WAS A GREAT RESPONSE!



At Christmas we also received wonderful support – lots of extra more-expensive “goodies” were donated, together with generous financial support, and we were able to meet all our commitments. In response to requests from the various agencies whose job it is to identify and refer their clients to Basics Bank for help, we were able to provide OVER 170 CHRISTMAS PARCELS, over and above the normal ongoing requests for emergency food supplies.

OUR INCLUSIVE FIGURES FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS SHOW THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED 460+ PARCELS TO ASSIST OVER 1100 INDIVIDUALS.

Small wonder, then, that there are BIG gaps on our shelves now, and the reserves that we had stacked away at Harvest time have almost all been used up, so that we now need to go shopping several times each week.

We are only able to cope because of the dedicated, ongoing generous support from church congregations and some individual contributors whose weekly donations of food, toiletries and cash all help to keep us going. We cannot thank them enough.

However, the need cannot be met by this alone and, fortunately for us, since mid-December we have also received strong financial support from a wide range of organisations. These include the New Forest District Council, Lymington Town Mayor's Christmas Appeal, some very generous fund-raising from a number of local churches, WIs, Clubs, Charitable Organisations and individuals. We are immensely grateful for all these donations, for it is this generosity that gives Basics Bank the confidence to continue its work and to make plans for the future.

TO PUT YOU ALL IN THE PICTURE:

We currently estimate that our annual costs are £8000 - £9000. For instance, each of the 170+ Christmas Parcels represents a cost of about £25, and our regular parcels of emergency supplies to last a family for a week may well represent a cost of £20+, depending upon the size of the family being helped. In the past six months we have given out about 300 parcels. Of course, on top of this we pay our own lighting, heating and insurance costs.

In these difficult days, FOOD BANKS are featured on local TV news from time to time and we are glad that in our own New Forest area new emergency food banks have been established at Langley on the Waterside and Ringwood in the north of the Forest. From Lymington we may not now have to travel so far afield, but we are increasingly aware of the growing need in our own localities of New Milton, Lymington and Pennington.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE HELPING US RESPOND TO THAT NEED
PLEASE CONTINUE WITH YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT**

And a final plea to recipients of this Newsletter:

PLEASE publicise this Newsletter as widely as possible by photocopying and distributing it as you see fit.

AND PLEASE, help to make sure that people know where to find us:

BEHIND THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH in LYMINGTON HIGH STREET –
We still occasionally hear of people looking for us at the Roman Catholic Church, the temporary home we left six months ago!



Tel: 01590 610008