

From: **Bethany Tidswell** BethanyTidswell@redcross.org.uk
Subject: British Red Cross
Date: 14 May 2020 at 15:07
To: clerk@waddingham.gov.uk

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Join us in helping others during the coronavirus outbreak

The power of kindness is needed more than ever as the UK faces a global coronavirus pandemic

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Dear Clerk and Councillors of Waddingham,

My name is Bethany Tidswell and I am a Community Fundraising Intern for the British Red Cross, raising funds to support people in crisis. I'm writing to Waddingham to kindly ask you to consider making a donation at whatever level the Councillors can offer to support the essential services we provide across Lincolnshire, including in your local area.

These services include: **Emergency Response, Home from Hospital/Care in the home, Medical equipment loan and Community based first aid (CBFA).**

Our vital services are currently being impacted by COVID-19, but we are doing our utmost to ensure that we are supporting people both facing the challenges resulting from this virus, and the most vulnerable people within our communities that need our support day to day.

Our response to COVID-19

Alongside our core services, we are working hard to support vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19.

In the UK, our response to the coronavirus outbreak is focused on four key areas:

- **Support for the NHS** – Our services ensure people are supported on their return from hospital and once they are home. Crucially, our support helps to ease the strain on the NHS by freeing up hospital beds. We are currently working with 100 hospitals around the UK but many more have requested our support.
- **Vulnerable and Elderly** - We know that the elderly and those who are already lonely will be hardest hit by this crisis. Our initial focus will be supporting the 1.5 million individuals over the age of 70 who have existing medical conditions, as well as the 8 million over 70s who will also be stranded at home.
- **Groups that are 'Off-Grid'** - Across the world, people and families are migrating or being forced out of their homes at a greater rate than ever to search for new opportunities or safety. We are rapidly planning a national distribution of cards, pre-loaded with cash to our most vulnerable clients to make sure they can support themselves and their families through this difficult period. Sourcing emergency accommodation for destitute, homeless refugees and asylum seekers who are unable to self-isolate is another key challenge.
- **Economic Insecurity** - We know that many individuals and families will experience economic hardship as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The complex challenges that the most vulnerable people in the UK face are emotional and psychological, but also financial. Across the UK, people are adjusting to the new realities of the crisis: those self-isolating will struggle to meet their basic needs; those self-employed will face a huge

...increasing their struggle to meet their basic needs; those self-employed will face a huge financial hit; many people are facing the stark reality that they may lose their jobs; caring responsibilities will increase; and with schools closed, kids at home will need to be fed.

For more information, please see: www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/uk-emergency-response/coronavirus

In addition to the increased activity outlined above, we continue to deliver the below services to support the vulnerable across Lincolnshire.

Emergency Response

We help people cope after a fire or emergency, providing practical help, advice and comfort after a house fire. The Fire Service come and put out your fire. But then they need to leave for the next emergency, sometimes literally leaving the family standing on the front lawn, in their pyjamas at 4 in the morning, wondering what on earth to do next. Our volunteers (on call 24 hours a day 365 days a year) arrive in a special vehicle which contains a hot shower, hot food, tea and coffee, clothes, baby food, toiletry kits, communications, list of emergency accommodation, and trained listening ears (all of which the Fire Service are neither equipped for nor have the capacity to offer).

Home from Hospital/Care in the home

We provide short-term care and support in the home for people after an accident or illness, giving them the confidence to continue their daily lives. Following a knee operation, 78 year old Malcolm was anxious about going home as he lived alone and his daughter was abroad. Once Malcolm was home, our volunteer helped by taking him shopping, visiting him and providing telephone support. Malcolm said, "I wasn't sure how I would have managed on my own." We have been supporting dozens of vulnerable people in Lincolnshire over the last 24 months.

Medical equipment loan

We provide short-term loans of medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, for people with a disability or illness. D Day veteran Mr Taylor desperately wanted to attend the 60th Anniversary in Normandy. Failing health meant he needed a wheelchair at short notice. Mr Taylor said, "Without the loan of this wheelchair I couldn't have found my colleagues in France, I'm very grateful to the Red Cross." There are Mr and Mrs Taylors in every town and city of Lincolnshire that we help. We loan and deliver thousands of wheelchairs to people across Lincolnshire every year.

Community based first aid (CBFA)

We train people in life-saving skills, so they can respond to emergencies in their communities. CBFA offers free and flexible sessions based on the client's needs. The service prioritises ability and confidence over formal accreditation. We train many people from the local area – who then could save anyone's life on any given day.

How your support can help

People will rely on the Red Cross to be there for them when they need it most. A donation from the Parish Council will help us to ensure that no one falls through the gaps. We're all in this together.

If you can support our work, please contact **Anna Ross** at annaross@redcross.org.uk with the date the donation was made, the amount and the payment reference. Please find our BACS details below:

Sort Code: 60-00-01 Account No: 90352556 Account Name: The British Red Cross Society

British Red Cross, Bradbury House, Caxton Business Park, Warmley, BS30 8XP
E: annaross@redcross.org.uk
P: 07912 565474

Where possible, we would prefer BACS payments for hygiene and safety reasons, but if you prefer to send a cheque please let us know. Any support you can offer will be gratefully received.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Anna.

With many thanks,

Bethany Tidswell

Community Fundraising Intern
British Red Cross
Lincolnshire Nottinghamshire Derbyshire and Rutland

BethanyTidswell@redcross.org.uk



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