

Summer 2017

The Good Shepherd Ministry
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Charity Number 1095385



We rely on practical donations of all kinds (food, bedding, toiletries etc.) and financial donations help maintain our services to those in need. We are blessed to receive regular support from many sources in the community; individuals, companies, trusts, schools and churches and other faith organisations. A recent donation saw us receive a new van and new cookers and extraction equipment for the kitchen. This was a very generous and significant donation from The Transport and General Workers Union of the former Goodyear Factory.

You can donate in many ways, either with much needed items or financially. An easy way to donate is to set up a standing order to gift us an amount regularly – for more information of how to do this please email admin@gsmwolverhampton.org.uk.

We always need items such as: Toiletries, pasta, tinned and dried foods, biscuits, tea, coffee, sugar and hot chocolate, cereal, long life milk and other non-perishable items.

Welcome to our latest newsletter - with news of what we are currently doing and our hopes for the future.

Our basic mission is the provision of immediate assistance to our service users in the form of food, clothing, toiletries etc. We have continued to be very busy providing these basic necessities to large numbers of individuals and families. We also regularly provide shower facilities and laundry service.

We have always offered some long term assistance in various forms: advice and information, use of our phone, use of our postal address, contacts with other agencies etc. In recent months we have tried to expand this long-term assistance. One new project we are trialling is a special programme to provide intensive support for a small group of our service users- more details below.

Looking to the future our hope is to continue offering the short-term, 'emergency' assistance which is so vital to large numbers of people, while doing more to offer long-term help to our most needy service users.

Service user weekly boxing teams and Day out fishing



www.gsmwolverhampton.org.uk

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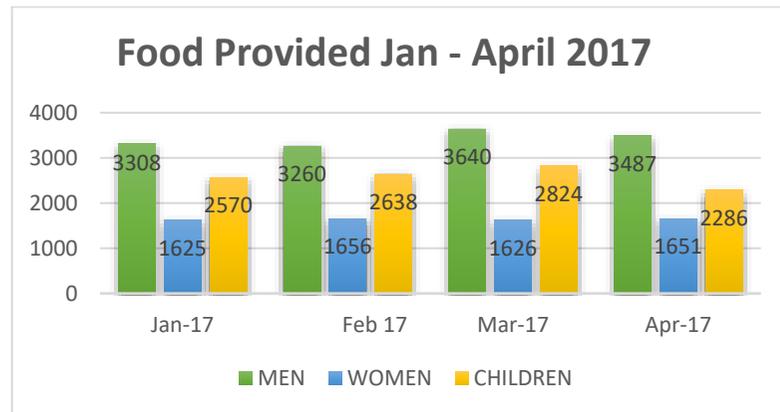


Some facts about our service users

We record data to help us to see who uses our services and why. The first time someone comes to us for help we register them and take some basic details.

Most of our service users are British males in their 30's. The second most common age group is 20-30 but we also have clients registered of all ages up to 70. A large minority are of overseas origin, including asylum-seekers. Many families are registered with us.

Food provision



We offer a hot meal or food to take away 7 days a week. As well as providing nourishment to some who would otherwise not eat, it is a time to socialise and access support. Most of the food we prepare is donated through various food partners and we also have groups come to serve food that they have cooked themselves.

'Service User Volunteer' Programme

This involves a small group of our service users spending several hours a day with us. One of our staff works with them in a mentoring role to help them address their problems – homelessness, benefit issues, lack of employment, immigration and addiction issues etc. They are kept occupied during their day attending appointments and working on their long-term goals and by getting involved in our work as volunteers, learning various practical skills. They also take part in other activities, including leisure activities, to help build life skills and confidence to enable independent living.

Future plans

We have just secured funding to employ a qualified social worker. This will help us to make early assessments with clients and enable us to connect them with professional agencies within Wolverhampton to get them the help and support that is needed. This social worker will provide extra support to the individuals in our 'service user volunteer' programme and will also reach out to more of our service users in general.

