

## **An appeal on behalf of the County's Foodbanks - from Vivienne Lowe**

### **Many of us are stuck in our homes, but can we still be useful?**

If you feel as helpless as I do in this current crisis, can I offer you an opportunity to do something very positive for the many who are not as fortunate as most of us? I am a volunteer at a local Foodbank and am only too aware of the difficulties faced by so many people.

The Foodbanks in the County are facing an unprecedented demand for their help. The Department for Work and Pensions said on Wednesday 477,000 people applied for Universal Credit benefit in the past nine days. Normally the foodbanks offer advice and friendship in addition to essential food supplies. Sadly, as a result of the dangers of this virus, personal contact is now very limited. The Government is bringing in measures to help but it's all taking time. In the meantime, many families and individuals are suddenly finding themselves with no wage or income coming in, no school meals for their children, and no savings to fall back on.

### **If you would like to help those who have so much less than most of us there are two immediate ways in which you can do this:**

1. If you feel able to donate money to enable the foodbanks to purchase food and have access to the internet, search: [countydurhamfoodbanks](http://countydurhamfoodbanks.org). go to Contact us. There is an item at the top that says "Donate money". That will guide you to a means of donating online.
2. If you are in a position to shop and to buy items for the foodbanks, you can drop these off at my house (17 The Village) and I will get them to the local foodbank. If you can't access the internet but would like to donate money, and you would be happy to pass any donations through me, I promise to make sure all donations get to the County Durham Foodbanks. In County Durham the foodbanks are supported by the Truswell Trust and are part of the Durham Christian Partnership.

If you would like more information about how foodbanks work, or feel you can become a volunteer at one of the centres, do please get in touch with me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Hoping you are all keeping well

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