

Reach

Community Projects

Tackling poverty in and around Haverhill

December 2018 News




Dear << Test First Name >>,

I hope this newsletter finds you well - It's another packed newsletter this month, with pictures from our MBE Reception, a few pictures from local supporting events, a video update of the warehouse move and a great story of hope.and

With Christmas Day almost upon us, we do hope you have a Happy Christmas!

Kind regards



Henry Wilson MBE
Projects Director

Donate Here

If you'd like to support Reach and our projects, please **click the donate button** above. We would greatly appreciate the support.

Upcoming

Official opening of the New Warehouse

We hope to have an open day at the end of January to celebrate the opening of the new warehouse. Dates have still to be confirmed so watch this space!

What's Been Happening

Warehouse Move



The last few months have been an incredible journey for us at REACH; towards the end of September we were given notice to vacate the warehouse that we used. I personally have been at this warehouse since 2005 when I was the Debt Centre Manager and then, more recently in 2008, the Foodbank started its humble beginnings here. The Foodbank has gradually expanded and grown larger over the years but this September we were given notice to leave by the 24th December.

So at the end of September, we were faced with the prospect of having to find a new warehouse. To cut a very long story short, we found a place the next day and it is no more than 100m from where our offices are. We signed the lease in October and had a 2-month free period to get it ready which is exactly what we have been doing over the last couple of months.

This has included a team of sub-mariners from HMS Vengeance who helped move the racking (which was always going to be a stumbling block for us because of the magnitude of the job) and now, eleven and a half weeks on, we are pretty much out of the old base and into our new one. There is still a long way to go with the new location but all being well, by the 20th December we hope to be completely out of the old warehouse. It has served us incredibly well and we are extremely grateful to Eddie Rooney and Royce Group who have hosted us for the last thirteen and a quarter years; it has been an incredible gift on their part to allow us to use their space and we are so thankful to them.

We have also taken on a larger office space to accommodate our rapidly growing team. We are now in Rooms 1 and 2 at the Wisdom Facilities Centre. Room 1 is the larger of the rooms and it here that our office staff are based; Room 2 is smaller and we are able to use this for meetings. But Christmas time is always busy for us and, because of the upheaval of moving warehouse, Room 2 is currently the Christmas hamper packing room! The foodbank has moved into warehouse Unit 17 and is absolutely fantastic but we still need to build a packing room there. We are hoping that this will be done at the beginning of January so that by the end of January all will be complete and the Foodbank warehouse will be fully operational from this warehouse. We also hope to have an Open Day at the end of January to celebrate the completion of this and all will be welcome to attend.

Tesco and Hampers

We had a great three-day food collection at Tesco at the end of November and the first of December. We had amazing support from different organisations, including the running club who helped with the collection of food. The generosity of the general public led to a whopping 2.4 ton of food which is enough to make 100 small family boxes, or the equivalent of 9600 chocolate penguin bars! With everything collected at Tesco it was on to hamper packing with so much Christmas food to give away.

There has been an amazing response to our sponsor a hamper with 118 being personally delivered this year. We have had tremendous support also with the reverse advent calendar and have been overwhelmed by the amount of food we have had come in over the Christmas period.

The elves have been busy on a couple of Saturdays and Tuesdays and have packed 118 hampers that are ready to go out to families in the local area. Without your generous support, none of this could happen and we thank you for all you have been able to do, whether it was packing, giving an item or sponsoring a hamper. One of the elves had this to say:

"I do this because I work in a deprived ward of Haverhill, I work with families that access the foodbank and I work with children from 2 to 5 and we see these families every day. We don't have to do this on a Saturday morning but when a parent comes to you with something from the foodbank and says I don't know what this is, and I don't know what to do with it and you have the ability and the time to be able to help further, you do. I also do it for my children and they come and help, and I think it is good for them to know there are other areas of life they haven't been exposed to."

The generosity of local people never ceases to amaze us and we are incredibly thankful. We thank you for your support in this and it will make a tremendous difference to the recipients. In fact, we had one recipient, just the other day say:

"Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas Hamper Selection. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone at REACH"



Local Support for REACH

Once again we have received excellent support from the local community. Just look at all the food donations that we've received!





MBE Reception

Following on from Henry's Investiture on the 21st November where he was presented with his MBE from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace, REACH hosted a celebration at Hall Farm Barn at Great Thurlow, courtesy of The High Sherriff of Suffolk, George Vesty. More than 100 people joined us for the evening to celebrate this achievement and enjoyed some excellent canapés made by Castle Manor Academy students. This was particularly fitting as that was the secondary school that Henry attended when he was young. The REACH team did an amazing job at making it such a warm and welcoming environment, and all round, a really nice occasion. We do thank everyone who came along and great thanks also go to all who made it happen.





A Story of Hope



Alex's Story

With everything going on, especially with the move, it has been business as usual. In particular the debt team have been incredibly busy working with clients and throughout the last quarter we have seen 8 people completely set free from debt which is the most we have done in a small period of time. The team have been out doing 42 home visits to many people and with some great outcomes for clients. We want to highlight one story we thought you might like to read about. We met Alex in the summer and here is his story...

[Read about Alex's story](#)

Recycle Your Tec

We are now working with [Recycle Your Tec](#) to raise money through donations of tech devices (mobile phones, tablets, televisions, laptops, monitors, PC's, etc.) which are then turned into real cash by Recycle Your Tec.

For more information, click [here](#)



Reach 
Community Projects

We need your help with donations!

You can now help Reach raise money through donations of old electronic gadgets



The poster features a teal background. At the top, the 'Reach Community Projects' logo is displayed. Below it, the main headline reads 'We need your help with donations!'. A sub-headline states, 'You can now help Reach raise money through donations of old electronic gadgets'. The central graphic shows a pink stick figure with arms raised, holding a smartphone. To the left, a green bin overflowing with various electronic devices like a printer, monitor, and laptop is shown. The bin has a circular logo that says 'RECYCLE YOUR TEC'.

Regular Giving

Can you help us **support** more local families in and around Haverhill?



Could you support the work of lifting people out of poverty locally? We are very grateful to you all for your support, as we really couldn't do this

without your help.

We currently have 35 people/organisations giving a total of £1680 per month which is fantastic. Could you too help us regularly with a gift? For example, £5 per month would enable us buy feminine products for a lady who can't afford to purchase these. £10 would enable us to buy a bedding pack, £25 would help with electricity for up to 1 week whereas £50 would help us keep the foodbank van on the road for a month.

Whatever you are able to give would be gratefully received and help us lift people out of poverty in and around Haverhill. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

Thank You!