



HELLO!

A Day in the Life of Open Hands

Have you ever wondered what a typical day at the Compassion Centre looks like? Let me give you a glimpse.

On Tuesday 24th March, the building was already full of life from the morning. Upstairs, two English classes were running, creating space for learning, confidence, and connection. At the same time, our Essentials Hub opened its doors. Across the morning, we supported 40 families - providing clothing for 16 families, emergency free food for 29, and affordable shopping for 5. Alongside this, two families attended furniture appointments, each one a step towards making a house feel more like home.

As the afternoon began, the rhythm of the day shifted but the activity didn't slow. Downstairs, we received donations of food, clothing, and household items - generosity in action from our community. Preparations for Pie Night were underway, while upstairs we hosted an English Through the Bible course. By the evening, the centre was once again full - this time with 77 guests joining us for Pie Night, sharing a hot meal and community together, while our trustees also met as part of their ongoing support and oversight of the charity.

And that's just within the building. Across the city, we had more English classes running at Central Baptist Church and our preschool in Braunstone welcomed children for both morning and afternoon sessions. Donations continued to come in through collection points and online giving - quiet but vital acts of kindness.

It's a full day, made up of many moving parts - but at the heart of it all are people. People being welcomed, supported, and cared for. People giving their time, skills, and resources to serve others. Thank you to all our team, donors and partners who make this possible through your generosity.

Charity Manager Beth

A recent referral highlighted a family where two children were sharing a single bed. Our furniture service was able to provide a bunk bed so each child had their own space. During the appointment, it became clear that the family faced other challenges too. All four children in the household were eating their meals around a small coffee table, and there was no suitable place for them to do their homework. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the flexibility of our furniture service, we were able to provide a dining table and a small desk, giving the children a more comfortable and practical environment for both mealtimes and learning. With a quieter schedule that afternoon, our team stayed to assemble the bunk bed, easing the parents' stress and making an immediate difference.

HM PRISON LEICESTER

In March, our team visited HMP Leicester's departure lounge. Around 30 men leave through those doors each week. The departure lounge team works hard to make sure no one leaves without at least some of the essentials. Individuals can receive an Open Hands food parcel to help them through those first crucial days. For many, it's the first sign that the community they're returning to hasn't forgotten them. During our visit, we saw first hand the care and dignity the staff bring to each interaction. A warm conversation, community support, and a practical item like a food parcel can make a world of difference to someone stepping into an uncertain future. We will continue to work with the service to ensure we are supplying the items prison leavers need.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Prayer changes lives, situations, hearts and does so much to impact people in positive ways as God responds to meet needs and transform lives. To some these are seen as co-incidences but to those who believe in Jesus, in a caring and compassionate God, they are God-incidences when God intervenes. One guest who received prayer many times in our Essentials Hub and saw many answers to prayer told us of how she recently got a great job and would now be able to provide for her family. She came to say thank-you for the support they received from Open Hands and for the prayers which encouraged and blessed her and her family. Pray that our guests will see amazing answers to prayer and be filled with hope.

Chaplain Mary

SLEEPING BAGS



In April we are asking you to support us to increase our stocks of sleeping bags. Sleeping bags help people experiencing street homelessness to keep warm and comfortable all year round, and often is what can keep them alive on a cold night, so is an essential item for us to have on our shelves.

Check our website for where to drop them off.

Or you can purchase them in our online shop givetoday.co.uk - search for openhands



VOLUNTEERING



Thursday afternoon Donations Team - can you help us receive and pre-sort donations, working from 1pm until 5pm on Thursdays?

This role is designed for 2 people to work together, so if you and a friend or relative want to have an opportunity to volunteer together, then this may be the role for you! Just like Vicky and Anthony do on a Tuesday - 'We spend a very enjoyable afternoon sorting through generous donations, and chatting to our donors'.

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