

# SCHOOLS CHRISTMAS SUGAR COLLECTION

**B.E.F.A.**

**[The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal]**

**63, Gipsy Lane, Norwich NR5 8AX**

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**(Reg. Charity No. 1066578.)**

## **PLEASE HELP THE HOMELESS** **THIS CHRISTMAS**

September 2010.

We would like to ask for your help in our **25th Annual Christmas Collection of Sugar** for the homeless and vulnerable at what is for them a particularly difficult time of year.

The need goes on! Each year we feed more homeless people than ever before – over 55,000, including 6000 complete Christmas meals in Norfolk and Suffolk. We work through established agencies to distribute further afield, in Cambridgeshire, London and Manchester. We say ‘yes’ to last minute emergencies without fail, too, for charities are really finding their income is much smaller. This year will be no different. We need our regular schools and we need lots more!

A packet of **sugar** is affordable, which allows most families to participate. **Sugar** also packs transports and stores easily. It's needed by the Shelters in vast amounts, both in cooking and in hot drinks.

British Sugar have generously agreed to help us again this year (as they have for the past 10 years), matching packet for packet the amount of their Silver Spoon brand of **sugar** collected, up to a total of 2 tonnes. Last year Norfolk schools collected enough **sugar**, of all brands; to supply the winter needs of all the Open Christmases, Homeless Shelters and Women's Refuges in Norfolk and North Suffolk, as well as other Agencies who help the homeless, such as the Salvation Army. All were very grateful!

Many Norfolk schools also collected **money** for us from Harvest Festivals, Christmas Concerts, “Come As You Like” Days or other fundraising events, which helped us buy traditional Christmas foods (like Turkeys and Christmas Puddings) for local projects for the homeless. We spent over £25,000!

Just what BEFA does is on the attached Fact Sheet.

One of our volunteers will collect the **sugar** from your school at a time convenient for you. Our collection schedule gets hectic in the last few weeks of term, so let us know now if you would like to help so we can make arrangements to suit you.

Peter Gibley, Hon Schools Coordinator

**P.S. Please tell me NOW that you will take part – by e-mail or phone**

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## **2010 FACT SHEET**

**BEFA is a locally funded, locally operated charity with roots in the farming community and a strong commitment to the people of Norfolk.** It has a 25 year history of bringing good food to the homeless from the people of Norfolk.

**BEFA's mission is simply to help feed the homeless and those fleeing domestic violence at Christmas.** We work through established shelters, supported accommodation projects etc. and with other experienced agencies, such as the Salvation Army, which have daily contact with the homeless.

**BEFA is a 100% volunteer organization.** There are no paid staff and the administration costs are negligible. So, almost every penny donated goes to purchase food.

**Local farmers** donate most of the fresh produce – more than 40 pallets of fruit and vegetables in 2009. Food Wholesalers and Manufacturers donate foodstuffs at Christmas and during the course of the year too. The total value of food donated last year was nearly £60,000.

**British Sugar** matched the “Silver Spoon” sugar donated by Norfolk schoolchildren in 2009, bringing the total amount of sugar collected and distributed to shelters to 6 tonnes!

**Norfolk families and Schools** make donations of cash, which is used to purchase those necessary food items (like Turkeys and Christmas Puddings) which have not been donated. In 2009 this amounted to over £25,000.

**Local businesses** help with postage, copying, transportation and warehousing. **BEFA sends only the food that is needed.** Each homeless project is sent a shopping list of the Christmas foods BEFA can provide. They mark the quantities they need, and add a “wish list” which BEFA attempts to fulfill.

**BEFA provided food for more than 15,000 meals for the homeless of East Anglia over Christmas 2009 and the following 10 days.** In addition, we sent lorry loads of food to Cambridgeshire, to Manchester for 41 homeless projects, soup kitchens and refuges in the northwest, and one to Food for All for London. These lorries were filled to overflowing! In all, over the Christmas period we were responsible for supplying over 55,000 meals!

**IF YOUR SCHOOL IS ABLE TO HELP,**

**PLEASE email PETER GIBLEY very soon at**  
**[peter.gibley@sky.com](mailto:peter.gibley@sky.com) or phone him on 01603-465733 [or**  
**PETER AND POLLY on 01692-407262]**

***P.S. Lively Assembly talks available!***