

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.)**

September 2011

Dear Headteacher,

WILL YOU LET YOUR SCHOOL COLLECT FOR THE HOMELESS THIS YEAR?

BEFA is Norfolk's own charity. We are in touch with every hostel and refuge in Norfolk and most in Suffolk. We provide all the food they need, and can't afford, for a proper Christmas Dinner and we top them up with basic foodstuffs. Everything is gathered in a barn in North Walsham and collected from there just before Christmas.

We ask schools to collect sugar because it works easily for them and we need a great deal of it. I collected for BEFA in my school in Norwich and we found it very relevant and worthwhile. Many schools also donate tea and coffee and others prefer to give us cash – we need £25,000!

Our collectors will be in touch with their regular schools, but things are much tougher this year for everyone and extra schools are really vital if we are to feed all the needy people we know about around you.

WILL YOU LET YOUR SCHOOL COLLECT FOR THE HOMELESS THIS YEAR?

Please do, nothing is wasted and there are minimal administration costs.

A fact sheet is appended below - and I'm available to offer a lively *short* assembly talk to start things off!

Thankyou,

Peter Gibley

Hon Schools' Organiser, BEFA

B.E.F.A. SCHOOLS CHRISTMAS SUGAR COLLECTION.

2011 FACT SHEET

BEFA is a locally founded, locally operated charity with roots in the farming community and a strong commitment to the people of Norfolk. It has a 26 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% voluntary 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 2010. 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.

Norfolk schoolchildren donate sugar – nearly 4 tonnes in 2010.

British Sugar matched the “Silver Spoon” sugar donated by Norfolk schoolchildren in 2010, 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 2010 this amounted to over £25,000.

Local Charities recognize the importance of our work by sending donations.

Local volunteers donate time, office space, supplies, etc.

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”. We at BEFA work to supply everything.

BEFA provided food for more than 70,000 meals at Christmas 2010 and over 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* in London. These lorries were filled to overflowing!

If you will help -

PLEASE email PETER GIBLEY very soon at
petergibley@hotmail.co.uk or phone him on 01603-465733

[or PETER and POLLY on 01692-407262]