

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

[The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal]  
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(Reg. Charity No. 1066578.)

## PLEASE HELP THE HOMELESS THIS CHRISTMAS

September 2006.

Dear Headteacher,

This letter asks for your help in our **21st Annual Christmas Collection of Sugar** for the homeless, from the schools of Norfolk. It's time to ask again if you will be kind enough to help us to bring some comfort to the homeless and vulnerable at what is for them a particularly difficult time of year.

We ask children to collect **sugar** because they can carry it easily, yet it feels "important", and they know the "comfortable" feeling it brings. A packet of **sugar** is affordable, which allows most families to participate. **Sugar** also packs, transports and stores easily, and it is needed by the Shelters in vast amounts, both in cooking and in hot drinks. The collection is easy to organize AND you and your school can have so much fun doing it too.....I know, because I was, until recently, headteacher at one of the participating schools.

British Sugar have generously agreed to help us again this year (as they have for the past 5 years), matching packet for packet, up to a total of 2 tonnes, the amount of their Silver Spoon brand of **sugar** collected. 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. Some went to similar projects in Cambridgeshire and Manchester, and some to projects in London. 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.

Just what BEFA does is on the attached Fact Sheet. We sincerely hope that you will feel able to join the band of Norfolk Schools (nearly 60 last year) who help us. If you require any more information, or would like to be put in touch with another school which has collected **sugar** for us, please let me know. We try to make things as easy as possible. I can supply posters and a speaker if you wish (but please let us know as soon as possible if you do!)

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 as soon as possible if you would like to help so we can make arrangements to suit you.

Thank you for taking the time to read our unique Norfolk Appeal. We look forward to hearing from you, and hope you will be part of the ever-increasing number of schools who do so much good by collecting **sugar** or, if it is more convenient for you, **money**, for the homeless at Christmas  
Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibley

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

## **2006 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 21 year history of bringing good food from the people of Norfolk to the homeless.

**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 administration costs are negligible. So, almost every penny donated goes to purchase food.

**Local farmers** donate most of the fresh produce – more than 30 pallets of fruit and vegetables in 2005. 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 £58,000.

**Norfolk school children** donate sugar – over 4 tonnes in 2005.

**British Sugar** matched the “Silver Spoon” sugar donated by Norfolk schoolchildren in 2005, bringing the total amount of sugar collected and distributed to shelters since last Christmas to over 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 2005 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. We ask them to mark the quantities of each food item they expect to need, and add a “wish list” which BEFA attempts to fulfill. The lists are then collated and we at BEFA work to come up with the quantities of food needed.

**BEFA provided food for more than 15,000 meals for the homeless of Norfolk over Christmas 2005 and the following 10 or so 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. All of these lorries were filled to overflowing! In all, over the Christmas period we believe we were responsible for facilitating some 35,000 meals!

**IF YOUR SCHOOL IS ABLE TO HELP,  
OR IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CALL PETER GIBLEY ON 01603-465733  
[OR PETER AND POLLY ON 01692-407262]  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**