



Dear Friends

Thank you for your continued support both in prayer and financially. All our shops are still temporarily closed but our Support Centre and emergency van have been very busy, and we are now running low on stock of some basic items. Unfortunately we don't have the space to take other items but for now this is what we desperately need :

ITEMS NEEDED:

Double bed bases and mattresses

Small dining tables and chairs

Single wardrobes

Chests of drawers

To help us to socially distance we need to be able to collect the items from the doorstep. Items can be partially dismantled if need be eg. bed bases can be dismantled into sections, not necessarily down to individual pieces.

To donate, please email response@ccam.org.uk

Here are a couple of stories from our Support team working from their homes, and our emergency van :

29 April 2020

We received an urgent call from a lady from St Laurence's Church, who wanted to help furnish 3 homes that were currently being occupied by young vulnerable teenagers. Each household needed different items of furniture, and there was a time issue.

We knew we could help, and we also knew it would be a challenge.

For example, one of the families who needed our help was a young mum who lived in an overcrowded house with a few weeks old baby. Due to unforeseen circumstances she ended up sofa surfing. She contacted our referrer for help who encouraged her to contact organisations that could

support her and her child. However, she was afraid of what this could possibly entail; she was desperate and her fears were real. This teenager contacted the Reading Borough Council on Monday and by Thursday she was offered an empty property. So imagine the scene: an empty house, no bed, no carpet etc, and a mum standing there with a baby in her arms. What was interesting is that during my conversation with her referrer later on, it turned out that we had already provided emergency assistance in the form of a bed and provisions for this family.

The referrer was given our warehouse location and she met the van foreman to identify the requisite furniture for the 3 homes. Items included; chest of drawers, bedside tables, wardrobes and more. The furniture was delivered within 2 days.

The referrer summed up her experience with CCA as follows:

“I was taken aback by how quickly everybody acted. Everyone whom I spoke to from the Support Centre Manager to the Warehouse Manager and the delivery team was highly professional. The service was quick and I could not believe the quick turnaround; from the initial request, the action taken and then the delivery of all the furniture”.

“The Van Foreman was very kind and extremely patient letting me choose what I needed. The Warehouse itself was very busy and full. However it was organised and very well maintained”.

“What struck me the most was how kind everyone is. They were professional, patient, and caring. They bent over backwards to help and there was a high level of commitment and assurance. For these people it is a vocation and not just a job”.

“Thank You”.

THANK YOU – You have no idea!

My name isn't important but my story is. I'm considered elderly and I live on my own. I've been living on my own for decades, after I lost my partner. We didn't have children because our time together was short and so therefore I have no family to support me. But I'm courageous and fiercely independent and that's how it was. I had friends and I attended church and my faith kept me strong.

So time passed and wow doesn't it pass quickly. I soon realised that my friendship group died naturally and me being me didn't pursue them because I didn't want to be a bother and I was fine.

I was comfortable living my life until one day. There was a knock on the door and strangers stood there looking at me. They said I needed help. They said they were here to help me. They said my situation was desperate. They were shocked at the way I lived.

I didn't have a fridge, or cooker, or hot water. I was afraid to switch things off in case they wouldn't come back on.

They said they would help.

“Hello”. I said to the lady who called me from CCA. She explained that those strangers that stood outside my house reached out to CCA to help me. I listened to what she had to say. Was this really happening a lady with a kind voice was going to help me with the things I needed. They were going to give me a Table top cooker, Under counter fridge, Food, and a small table, Kitchen Pack (with a frying pan. I can finally fry myself a piece of meat). I listened and then I cried. I kept apologising for crying, and the kind voice said it's okay to cry.

Within moments I got a call from another kind voice who said they were delivering my furniture today. Was this really happening?

There was a knock on the door and two men were standing there with everything they had promised. I just wanted to hug them but I couldn't because of Covid-19. Oh my word was I grateful and you know they didn't judge me, there was no pity but instead I felt cared for.

So I thanked the kind lady who listened to my story and I asked her to thank those wonderful men. She gave me contact details of another church who can help further, and she said I could call her again if I needed to. So I did at least 3 times that day.

They didn't give me an under counter fridge, because I have a fridge that wasn't plugged and, so I wasn't sure if it was working. So I promised her I would plug it in and if it doesn't work, I must call her and let her know, so that they can get one to me.

I didn't call because I know she will call me back. She asked if it was okay to call from time to time, and I said yes. However I know I can call her too if I needed to. I won't be afraid to ask for help again.

Thank you, thank you, thank you CCA.

Without your support we would not have been able to help these families and many others, so thank you again.

Psalm 145:8-9

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

9 The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

Kind regards

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