



Our 9th Year!!

The Christmas Community Team have been providing Hampers to local families for 9 years.

The 'Hamper' Team: Hitchin Partnership CIO, Hitchin Youth Trust, Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse, Zeo Church, Salvation Army (Stotfold), Foodbank (Hitchin), Hitchin Food Rescue, Hitchin Pantry, Feed Up Warm Up & our volunteers.

The Christmas Community Team We are a group of charities, organisations and volunteers collaborating to provide help at Christmas for local families. This is our 9th year of providing support at Christmas. This would not be possible to achieve without the continued support of our local community. Since 2015 we have been providing hampers to families in Hitchin and the surrounding area. Our reach has widened during this time as we aim to reduce duplication and increase the number of families supported locally.



What do families receive? **Supermarket Vouchers**

We provide families with a supermarket voucher, families can choose between two supermarkets. Vouchers are emailed the week before Christmas to enable them to shop for Christmas. The amount provided is dependent on factors such as the size of the family. We post vouchers if families are unable to access online.

Gifts All children up to age 18 receive a gift, with funding we are able to give older teens a gift voucher and gifts to children aged 11-14. An Amazon gift wish list is in place for children up to age 11 and we have an amazing and generous response from the community enabling us to give new and quality gifts to all children.

Extra Items In addition to the main gifts we also give **PYJAMAS** With funding we were able to give pyjamas

to all children under 6 years old. We gave over 90 pairs of pyjamas – just glad we didn't need to wrap them all! Children receive these in addition to the gifts. **ACTIVITY BOOKS** and **STATIONERY SETS** to children under 10, selection boxes for all children.



Thank you to Hitchin Club of Tilehouse Rotary Members for putting together over 70 **TOILETRY GIFT BAGS**. All hampers had at least one chocolate **SELECTION BOX**. All gift hampers come with a roll of new wrapping paper and sticky tape so parent/carers can wrap the gifts personally. We had a kind donation of John Lewis **'SNAPPER'** soft toys from Hitchin Waitrose. These were added to hampers with children aged 11 and under on a first come first served basis. Once again thank you to Anne for selecting and writing the Christmas Cards.



Thank you to our volunteers who helped pack and deliver the gift hampers to family homes



Hitchin Christmas Community Team Hamper Appeal Summary 2023

thank you

On behalf of the Christmas Community Team we would like to say thank you to everyone who supported us, the team for their hard work, the contributions that made all of this amazing support possible and to the time given by organisations, charities and volunteers. The Hamper Appeal comes together with the help of all the members involved, however we could not provide to families without funding and support.

Valliant Trust, North Herts District Councillors; Councillor Ian Albert and Councillor Keith Hoskins, Pirton Methodist Church, Flip Connect, EHM Technologies, Brookers Hitchin Art Hub, William Ransom school staff in lieu of Christmas cards. Sleigh rounds. The Cricketers Pub, Weston following their Charity Pub Quiz. Many donations from the community, some of whom wish to remain anonymous via our online donation page.



We also had some extra help with the gift parcels; wrapping paper, selection boxes, activity books and John Lewis 'Snapper Toys' and toiletries gift bags
Hitchin Boys School
Whitehill School
Wilshere Dacre Junior Academy
Highbury Infant & Nursery
Oughton Primary School
William Ransom School
Mary Exton School
Samuel Lucas School
Strathmore Infant and Nursery
York Road Nursery
Highover School, Waitrose (Hitchin), Our Lady's and Churches Together.

Feedback from families

This will really help me and my family enjoy our Christmas.

We can not thank you enough for these food vouchers.

thank you so much, this is **amazing and has totally made my day knowing** we can have a nice Christmas Day ♥ **Wow! Thank you so much!!**

Thank you so very much! I can't **express my gratitude** for what you have done for my family and me.

Thank you for the voucher. This means so much and we are very grateful.

Thank you so very much, we really appreciate it.

It has literally saved my children's Christmas. Thank you for all the wonderful work you do.



Oh my goodness. You have just saved Christmas for me. We just wanted to say thank you. We have received the vouchers and the many presents. They were really amazing presents our children were very happy.



The Hitchin Christmas Community Team formed Hitchin Food Provision in March 2020 in response to the lockdowns. We continue to provide emergency help to families through professional referral. We can provide a supermarket voucher with a quick turnaround. This support is possible due to donations. Please see our website to see how you can help support: [Hitchin Food Provision – helping people feed their families within our local community](#)

A local collaborative approach to help people in our community

