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Residents Give the Gift of Giving this Festive Season



This year, residents at Walsall housing association, WATMOS Community Homes, were asked to think of people less fortunate across the borough during the Christmas period.

Residents were asked to donate items no matter how big or small to the Organisation's Giving Tree Appeal. The appeal aimed to collect money, food, clothing and toiletries to help provide gifts for four children's homes in the area

and essential items for those who will be homeless during the festive season.

Thanks to the generosity of local residents the appeal, in its third year, has been its most successful, with donations of gifts and money doubling that of previous years.

Organisers, Louise Walker and Joanne Griffiths, are overwhelmed by residents' generosity; "We have always been grateful for all donations received during this and previous appeals; but this year we are in awe at the amount of gifts we have received".

Group donations from the eight estates within the Organisation have also helped to raise additional money for the appeal. This has ensured that the children's homes have received both communal and personal gifts; from DVD players, CDs, DVDs, mobile phones and toiletries; with a whole range of sensory toys being provided for disabled children at one of the residential homes.

Donations of clothes, food hampers, toiletries and blankets to Walsall homeless charities have been gratefully received. Tracey Gibbs, Project Manager at Hi's and Lows homeless organisation that helps homeless, vulnerably housed and individuals who have drug and alcohol issues expressed her sincere thanks for all of the items donated by the appeal; "all items donated go directly into our drop ins and emergency shelter where homeless individuals and other vulnerable adults can access free food drinks and basic items. Thank you for your ongoing support".

The West Midlands is one of the most prevalent areas for homelessness in the UK, with recent figures showing that someone faces losing their home every two minutes.

It has been estimated by homeless charity Shelter, that 630 people a day will receive a letter threatening the loss of their home between now and Christmas.

Pictured: Joanne Griffiths and Norman Sadler

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