



## Helping Hands Foodbank - Donations Guide

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This short guide provides information on the types of donations AFRIL can accept to support our food bank beneficiaries. Where we are unable to accept donations we have suggested alternative charities.

- Thank you for thinking of AFRIL and our Food Bank beneficiaries and for getting in touch.
- AFRIL runs a weekly Food Bank run in partnership with St Peter's Church, Lee. Here we give away a small number of preloved donated items such as clothing, shoes, books and small children's toys. However, we are a 'pop-up' food bank run from a church hall so we do not have lots of storage space and so we cannot accept as many donations as we would like.
- We have a volunteer team who manages our 'preloved' donations. They are Rosie and Annie. They take it in turns to volunteer at the foodbank every week. Donations must be approved by Rosie in advance. Please note that it is likely that Rosie will arrange drop offs on a Saturday morning at the Foodbank at St Peter's Church, Lee (SE12 8HQ) between 09:00 – 10:30, but Rosie will confirm this with you in advance.
- Please can you provide as much information as possible about the items you want to donate. Send a photo, provide measurements/sizes, /specs for larger items.
- Please can you provide your contact details so we can pass them on to Rosie who will be in touch with you directly to let you know whether we can accept your donation.
- We cannot collect items from your home.
- We really appreciate that you thought about AFRIL and our beneficiaries. If we cannot accept your donation, we hope you understand and will be happy to redirect it to our suggested charities instead.

### What items can we take?

**Clothing and shoes for adults and children:** We can accept these items, but we cannot take large donations, just a few bags at a time (i.e. not a car full). [Please check with Rosie our volunteer in charge of preloved donations at \[foodbank@afril.org.uk\]\(mailto:foodbank@afril.org.uk\)](#) as she will know our beneficiaries, their sizes and needs and our current capacity.

We will not accept dirty items or items in disrepair. On arrival the donated clothes will be inspected to check that they are appropriate for our service users. Please note that we sometimes we have to turn away items which we do not think are suitable or because we are over stocked.

**Bedding and household items:** [Please check with Rosie.](#) With larger items like bedding we ideally try to match these donations with a beneficiary before accepting because we have limited space. We may redirect you to our sister charity shop GRACE. We have an arrangement with GRACE where our beneficiaries can arrange a personal visit to look through and choose items in a private, quiet and dignified way.

**Adult or children's books** Children's books are usually welcomed. This really depends on space and the suitability of the books. [Always check with Rosie.](#)

**Baby items – prams, moss baskets, bouncy chairs, and pushchairs:** Some of our mums do need prams and pushchairs. Our challenge is storage and prioritizing giving single donations to one family in need over others in equal need. As part of our response to this need, we are piloting a new approach in suggesting donations are given directly to our sister charity GRACE and we can then arrange for our mums to visit the shop in a relaxed way and choose from the stock available.

GRACE only accepts pushchairs in a clean (washed) condition with working brakes, secure harnesses and rain covers. **(GRACE does not accept child bikes, scooters or child car seats)**

**Food:** Yes please!! **No need to check with Rosie.** Please drop off food at the Foodbank on any Saturday between 09:30 and 10:30. Items always needed are: oil, tinned tuna (in oil), tinned tomatoes, nappies (sizes 2-5 are always needed) toilet rolls, rice, UHT milk, juice, cereals.

**We do not accept:**

- Electrical items
- Children's bikes, scooters and large toys - we cannot store them and it is difficult to allocate single items fairly
- Furniture
- Dirty items or items needing repair
- Push chairs, prams, child car seats or Moses baskets – please take to GRACE charity shop supporting refugees.

If you have any questions please contact the foodbank on [foodbank@afril.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@afril.org.uk)

Below is a list of alternative options for redirecting those donations AFRIL cannot take:

Local Charity Shops:	Location (from Peter's Church, Lee)	Opening times/Contact details
<a href="#">GRACE charity shop is our sister charity that also supports refugees.</a>  Our members visit the shop to choose baby and household items.	18 Leegate, Lee, London, S12 8SS  Walking: 10 Minutes Public Transport: 10 Minutes Driving: 3 Minutes	Wednesday - Friday: 10am - 1 pm Saturday - Tuesday: Closed  T: 07971690203 E: aid@graceaid.org.uk
<a href="#">Geranium Charity Shop for the Blind</a>	5 Eltham Rd, London SE12 8ES  Walking: 5-8 Minutes Public Transport: 5 Minutes Driving: 2 Minutes	Monday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00pm Sunday: Closed  T: 020 8463 9414
<a href="#">Sue Ryder</a>	16 Leegate Shopping Centre Lee Green, London, SE12 8SS  Walking: 10 Minutes Public Transport: 10 Minutes Driving: 3 Minutes	Monday - Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:30pm Sunday: 10:00am - 4:00pm  T:0208 852 6334 E leegate8170@sueryder.org

<a href="#">Emmaus Greenwich</a>	332 Lee High Rd, Lewisham, London SE13 5PJ  Walking: 15 Minutes Public Transport: 10 Minutes Driving: 4 Minutes	Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00am - 4:30pm Monday and Sunday: Closed  T: 020 8852 5365 E: infor@emmausgreenwich.org
<a href="#">British Heart Foundation</a>	98 Lewisham High St, Lewisham, London SE13 5JH  Walking: 30 Minute Public Transport: 15 Minutes Driving: 10 Minutes	Monday - Saturday: 9am - 5:30pm Sunday: Closed  T: 020 8463 0179
<a href="#">Cancer Research UK</a>	135 Lewisham High St, Lewisham, London SE13 6AA  Walking: 30 Minute Public Transport: 15 Minutes Driving: 10 Minutes	Monday - Saturday: 9:00am - 5:30pm Sunday: Closed  T: 020 8463 0179
<a href="#">Scope</a>	7 Lewis Grove, Lewisham, London SE13 6BG  Walking: 30 Minute Public Transport: 15 Minutes Driving: 10 Minutes	Monday - Saturday: 8:00am - 8:00pm Sunday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

### **Donations campaign - our communications plan re encouraging appropriate donations to the Food Bank**

This section lists the various avenues we will use to get our message out re donations. It is not exhaustive, and suggestions are welcomed:

- AFRIL website
- Church of the Good Shepherd and St Peter website
- AFRIL FACEBOOK
- GRACE
- AFRIL e newsletter
- Volunteer connections and networks